Tagging ng Bayan/A12
One-woman policy: Ubira ba sa machong Pinoy?
WINA 21 TW TEXT 2910
Across/A18
Davao Chinoy traders welcome vigilantes
Sports
No rematch for Pacquiao-Marquez until next year
Magazine
This nurse is going places but not to US, London
Lifestyle
Quezon's old houses memorials to romance and history

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
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Countries that regulate least succeed best

By Peter Wallace
President, Wallace Business Forum

THE WORLD Bank has done some excellent work linking economic government interventions to slow economic growth. It shows quite conclusively that countries that regulate least, succeed best.

In other words: BEE (Easy Is Simple, Stupid)!

An example: In Bolivia, one of the most heavily regulated economies in the world, an estimated 61 percent of business activity takes place in the informal sector. There, workers enjoy no social benefits and cannot use premises, plant and school funds for their children. Businesses do not pay taxes, reducing the resources for the delivery of basic services here. There is no quality control for products. And entrepreneurs, fearful of regulation and the police, keep operations below efficient production size.

It takes two days to start a business in Australia, but 2.0 in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Guess which country is doing better.

COMMENTARY

Schwarzenegger gets flak for 'girlie men' joke

THERE it is, the $2-billion Bataan Nuclear Power Plant in Morong, Bataan, ravenously idle for the past 20 years, shrouded in the mist of corruption, heavy with debt that eats into the Filipinos $135,000 daily and $2M

Beware of 'Marcos folly'

GMA plan to convert Bataan plant to gas power draws fire

VOWING neither to sleep nor eat on his chair until the day he's released, Lt. Rodolfo Palaloy (above) spurns a five-course old meal in front of a hotel's caterers. (At right) Private First Class Rizal Mesenas takes a puff before rendering a song, "All My Life," during the cultural program put on for the freed NPA captives at an undisclosed NPA camp. Palaloy sang "Farewell, My Friend." Both lawmen pay their shelter but are wanting them neither they nor hardly wait to get out of there

By Michael Lim Ubac and Fe Zamora

WHY RESURRECT a dictator's monument to folly?

Hardly off the ground, President Macapagal-Arroyo's plan to convert the mothballed Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP) into a gas-fired facility is already drawing fire from politicians, environmentalists and a militant left-wing leader.

To Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, Malacañang's proposal is reminiscent of the power circus running over the country to nothing but a mess everywhere.

"The President should not fall for the propaganda line being peddled by Napocor [National Power Corp.] and some officials who have devoted energy as if they have made a discovery," Arroyo told the Inquirer in a phone interview. "It's a rehash, Marcos Revisited."

Built in 1980 at a cost of more than $2 billion, the nuclear plant is often cited by critics as a symbol of the Ferdinand Marcos folly and corruption," Arroyo said.

"The end results of the BNPP complex ...was designed to house and operate a nuclear power reactor, which is entirely different from power plants that the country needs—kinds of fuel," he stressed in a separate statement.

Arroyo recalled that besides of converting the BNPP into a gas power plant had been proposed before but never took off.

"All had been deceptively dangled by energy and Napocor officials [Greg Ong] officials in every President of the Philippines after Mr. Marcos whenever there was a power crisis".

Arroyo claimed a filmgo the BNPP was only a "documentary movie" by Energy

Two captive soldiers are grateful to NPA rebels

By Jose Rosendo Jr.,
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—Despite the anxiety and uncertainty of their situation, the two Army soldiers who were held as prisoners of war by the communist New People's Army are grateful that they are still alive.

Under the watchful eyes of their captors, Lt. Rodolfo Palaloy and Private First Class Rizal Mesenas were allowed to perform as previously requested and Pfc. Rizal Mesenas sang Letlefio el Mensaro's super

relative freedom of movement in the NPA camp where they are being held, without shackles and handcuffs.

There are no bars or walls to hold them back. They could be observed moving, laughing, singing and even exchanging ideas with their captors.

Palaloy even thanked his captors when he was asked to give a short message during a cultural program at the NPA camp where the reporter went to interview the two soldiers.

"I openly express my gratitude to the comrades for taking care of us and treating us well. We feel your care and our families will know of this," he said in Ilocano.

For the sake of their families, however, he said he hoped he and Mesenas would be released soon.

He also sang a song titled "Farewell, My Friend" to the assembly.

In Manila, the head of the rebel commitee here, said the trial of the two soldiers under the "revolutionary justice system" was being shelved and they would be released on humanitarian grounds.

He said they were just waiting for the government to fulfill the condition for the release. The suspension of all military offensive operations in Catanduanes and Albay.

Bonol said the NPA allowed the two captive soldiers to answer in writing all the charges against them. They had decided to put on record the documents that contained their detailed answers to

Bingbong: A journey from behind bars to Congress

By Cynthia D. Balana

HE WAS convicted of arson for burning down two villages in Davao duo in 1970. Two years later, while serving his life sentence, he languished in prison from 1978 to 1981.

Like this, he broke down and experienced what he said was a 180-degree conversion.

With God, nothing is impossible," 57-year-old Rep. Vicente "Bingbong" Guingona, a senatorial member of the House of Representatives, told The Inquirer, recounting his journey from hell and back.

"There is no subjectivity that exists without the use of God," he said.

Looking back, Guingona counted like someone at peace with himself. He said he had learned to forgive those responsible for his ugly past, as some his detractors resorted to empty digging up.

"I have forgotten that incident and I have forgiven. That is the reason perhaps that I was able to search on. If you don't

SEPARATE BEDS

Carl, Clarence healing as mom settles down

HOT LIMB, she married that her twins had been successfully separated did debate separate bodies, having lived in separate the Bongo deliveries of pain, pressure and delay that were her birthday present from home. She turns 32 on Aug. 20.

Adrose had been unable to eat before and during the surgery. Her stomach kept churning from nervous.

Two days after Adrose's exams, Carl and Clarence, underwent 17 hours of delicate neuro and plastic surgery underlying on their separation at The Children's Hospital in Philadelphia (Chop), in New York. She too are healing and doing "really well."

The brothers are starting to separate beds in their shared room and Adrose and grandmother Evelyn Nuesca Bolivar) "are looking in from time to time just to enjoy the sight of them doing so well," said Dr. Robert Marcus, the twins' pediatrician for the last 11 months at Chop.

"I'm very happy and excited to see them sleeping in separate beds. I can't wait to see them sleeping each other, to see their reactions," said Adrose.

"I think everyone who is praying for the twins and is awaiting for their rapport and progress," she said.

The team of doctors, nurses and other specialists caring for the boys is very pleased with the way they are recuperating, according to a bulletin from Chop on Friday.

"Knowing Carl and Clarence as we do, we want to keep them under some restriction to prevent them from moving around too much," said Marcus.

"Earlier today their sedation began to taper off slightly, and I saw Clarence making a few clothes with his favorite sources, so Carl started wiggling around in his cone bed across the room," said Marcus.

The boys will be kept under some se-

LAST RIDE The state honors due senator and legal luminary Ayala y Tabacalera, one of the last of the Del Guard politicians at his funeral on Saturday at the Libingan ng Mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio. The family led by his widow, Constancia (in wheelchair), follow in the hearse. (Story on Page A2.)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8, 2004

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

High court breaks phone monopoly

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUPREME Court has upheld the decision of the National Telecommunications Commission allowing Bayan Telecommunications Corp. (Bayantel) to operate in Manila and Nueva Ecija although the NTC had earlier authorized another telecom firm to operate in the same areas.

In its 28-page decision, the high court's Second Division reversed the bid of Telecommunications Technologies Philippines Inc. (TTPI), which had earlier been given provisional authority to operate in these areas, to stop Bayantel from operating in its franchise areas.

The high court said the NTC did not commit grave abuse of discretion when it allowed Bayantel to operate in areas already occupied by TTPI.

In its ruling, the high court said that a telephone company's franchise to operate in a certain area was not exclusive.

"How does anything else, public service should be the primordial objective of local exchange operators. The entry of another provider in areas covered by TTPI should pose as a challenge for it to improve its quality of service. Ultimately, it will be the public that will benefit," said the high court ruling penned by Associate Justice Ma. Alicia Austria-Martinez.

The high tribunal, however, ordered Bayantel to deposit in escrow with a reputable bank 20 percent of its investment requirements in excess than it had the money to defray expenditures for its project for the first two years.

Bayantel, a telecom firm owned by the Lopez family was also required to post a performance bond to compensate the government for any damage should it fail to complete the project.

Court records showed that the NTC granted TTPI, an affiliate of Ramon Ang's Telecommunications Philippines Inc., the provisional authority to operate in Manila and Nueva Ecija on Sept. 20, 1996.

But before TTPI was able to accomplish its rollout obligation, the NTC on June 10, 1997 granted Bayantel the authority to operate in the same areas.

TTPI went to the Court of Appeals to overturn NTC's decision but the appellate court dismissed its petition on April 30, 1998. TTPI then went to the Supreme Court.

The high court said the Department of Transportation and Communication's Service Area Scheme adopted in 1995—which provides for the NTC to delineate local exchange areas and to authorize only one carrier to operate in each area—was no longer binding since this was "noticeably omitted" from the 1995 Telecommunications Policy Act of 1995 and Executive Order No. 109 in 1995.

The two laws adopted a "policy of healthy competition" among local exchange providers.

"One of the announced policies and objectives of the [Public Telecommunications Act] is to lower the prices on and improve the quality of telecommunication services in the country through a healthy competitive environment, in which telecommunications services are free to make business decisions and to contract with one another in providing telecommunications services, with the end in view of encouraging their financially viable while maximizing efficient use," the high tribunal said.

Envoy, traders say effect of RP pullout minimal

By Norman Bordadora and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PULLOUT from the country's center from the Coalition of the Willing in Iraq would be minimal, if any, a diplomat told reporters yesterday.

The Philippines' two-year move to merge abroad and the availability of job opportunities for its workers in the rebuilding of Iraq—will take care of themselves, if former ambassador to Iraq Roy Mabasa Barcinas is correct.

"Filipinos have enough goodwill to qualify for the jobs [in Iraq]. We are multi-lingual, we are English-speaking," Barcinas said at a weekly breakfast forum in Quezon City yesterday.

Barcinas said the relative affordability of skilled Filipino workers would be quite hard for foreign companies to pass up when taking up projects in Iraq.

"There would be no impact. Much of the work [in the rebuilding of Iraq] is still concerned engineering. They [women] may influence [US and British] companies but when it comes to [hiring] specific workers, [the pioneers] would be minimal," Barcinas said.

As for the Philippines' image in the international community, the diplomat said the country would be proud of its decision to pull its 51-man humanitarian contingent out of Iraq.

"There is no more legal and moral basis to stay [in Iraq]. ... There are no weapons of mass destruction," Barcinas said. "We can always face the world with heads held high."

Barcinas said it was clear that the Philippines learned the art of brinkmanship on the international stage, especially since it is a strategic country that the US can't simply brush aside.

"We have to remember the quid pro quos.... We shouldn't always just follow the US," he said.

Filipino businessmen reportedly feel the same way.

They believe that American and other foreign companies would still turn to Filipinos for their manpower requirements in rebuilding Iraq.

In an interview, Philippine Constructors Association executive director Rhenaldo Madrazo said the Philippines' move from the Coalition of the Willing "would be does not matter much."

White House spokesperson Richard Boucher had said the Philippines was dropped from the coalition after it gave in to Iraq kidnappers' demands on pullout of Iraq.

"The reconstruction and development needs in Iraq is business and American and British contractors know are business realities [that] will go for cheaper producers and efficient subcontractors and suppliers," Madrazo said.

Subcontractor Raul T. Concepcion said the Philippines had no placement fee problem very clearly and he was sure the US would eventually understand their move.

Ambassador of Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry executive vice president Peter Chua said that while the Philippines might be getting a bad rap (as "workers coming for its early withdrawal) he was confident "the world would learn to sympathize with and respect our position."

Now, while waiting to see how America would soften its position on Iraq withdrawal, ties with the Philippines. Manalo along a confidence [illegible] otherwise would remain firm.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said in an interview over DWIZ radio that the Palace expected US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone to give it the real score on "the Philippines' standing as far as the US is concerned."

"We certainly good we that the US is only temporary," said Bunye.

Ricciardone is scheduled to have interview with foreign affairs Secretary Delia Albert when announced that they would come out with a joint statement after the meeting.

In an interview Friday night, Ricciardone said: "[the US] and I will get together to have a nice chat on Monday and we'll [see] with the press after that."

'Turing' given hero's burial

AT LEAST, they are together again.

Hotel guy Alex, known here simply as "Ka Turing" Tolentino, [illegible] and social-[illegible] activist, was buried with [illegible] in high-[illegible] ceremony at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio.

Tolentino's gold-colored coffin was borne to the [illegible] of the ceremony close to [illegible] of his former colleagues in government.

Military every in front of him by the remains of former Vice President Salvador "Doy" Laurel. To his left lay former Foreign Secretary and Sen. Blas Ople.

The three had shared some of the good as well as the rough times in the country's [illegible].

Tolentino and Ople were allies of the late President Ferdinand Marcos during martial law [years] and ran the other side of the [illegible], Ojeong Marcos.

When Tolentino's coffin was lowered into the ground, the Philippine flag that had draped it was folded by two soldiers and given to Foreign Secretary Delia Albert, who handed it over to Erlinda's relative, Consuelo.

The widow, who came in the funeral in a wheel chair, covered Tolentino's coffin with few hands and wept. Other family relatives also broke into tears. An honor guard fired a 21-gun salute.

A legal luminary among the Old Guard of Philippine politics, Tolentino died following a heart attack on Monday. He was 76.

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6/42 Luzon/Vis-Min 9 12 16 28 38 43

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6/22 SUBTOTALS 1 6 9 4 7 7 1 5 9 2 7 SIX DIGIT

Muntinlupa leads way in day care

TOTS ENROLLED in one of Muntinlupa City's 44 day care centers take a break from school work. For a minimal fee, parents from depressed areas are able to give their children access to quality early education through the city's progressive learning program. ron manalo

By Margaux C. Ortiz

FOR DENISE Mia, 33, his son John Paulo's education is top priority.

Isla, of Barangay Poblacion, Muntinlupa City, brings his 5-year-old son to the Bangar Day Care Center every morning and waits for John for two hours until his classes are over.

"They save education purposes no son for elementary school," Isla said. "Instead of playing in the streets and learning nothing, this is a better alternative."

Isla admitted he does not have the resources to pay for an expensive day care education.

"We are happy that for a minimal voluntary fee, our children can get quality education early in life here in their community," he said.

Isla is just one of many parents, most of them vendors and factory workers, from eight barangays whose children benefit from the city government's day care services program.

There are 44 day care centers in the city, with 3,411 children enrolled for the school year. Six many cities can top that feat.

For a voluntary fee of P50 to P70 a month, children in the city's depressed areas learn their ABCs from competent teachers in well-equipped day care centers.

Muntinlupa Mayor Jaime Fresnedi said professionalizing the city's day care program was one of his priorities when he was first elected in June 2001.

At the start of his term, the Early Childhood Education Division (ECED) was created through an ordinance to focus on the day-care program.

"Muntinlupa is the only city that has an office on early childhood education separate from that of the Department of Social Welfare and Development," Fresnedi said, adding that the emphasis on day care is in keeping with his policy of making education the number one priority.

Fresnedi stressed that products of day care centers are more active and have no problem adjusting to their environment outside their homes than children who were not able to avail of this opportunity.

"Day care children do not cry on their first day in elementary school," Fresnedi observed. "Many even skip preparatory school and go straight to Grade One."

ECED Head Marcel Barsayso said the city's day care program began in 1978 as an affordable alternative to prepare children for primary education.

Barsayso said that the program serves as a preparatory learning scheme to at least as five percent of 3 to 5-year-olds in depressed areas found in the city's eight barangays.

With the P1.6 million allotted for the ECED this year, they were able to purchase quality instructional materials like books and educational toys for the children, and ensure that the 68 teachers and day care workers are well-paid and well-trained.

But at least two hours daily, nursery, kindergarten and preparatory students learn about self-discovery, family environment, nursery and the world is mostly air-conditioned classrooms, Barsayso said.

"We're the student-teacher ratio at 1:29, a qualified teacher-aide helps keep the children's eyes glued on the teacher," Barsayso said.

The city government's full support also helped ease up their problem on overcrowding in the centers, she added.

To do works it as an activity book they plan to publish, based on learning activities prescribed by the DepEd's Monthly Program. Every week aimed at stimulating session plans in all the day care centers.

Barsayso stressed that school-ing does not end in the summer when classes are over.

"We have a summer school as schools program where we go around the barangay teaching the children," she said.

"This way, the children would not be bored and forget what they learned in school."

Apart from educational programs for the children, Barsayso said the ECED also conducts seminars for parents and the barangay.

Barsayso feels their job is hardly over.

"There are still many parents in the depressed areas who are reluctant to recognize the value of early childhood education," she said.

"We would like to reach out and tell them that everyone in the community should be involved in molding children into responsible and well-educated adults," Barsayso said.

Enrolling them in day care could be a good start.

MetroBriefs

Manila Council backs two-child policy bill

THE MANILA City Council unanimously approved last week House Bill No. 38, or the proposed two-child policy law, after it passed a consolidated resolution authored by Mayor Lito Atienza, Councilor Benny Isidro Sr. and 3rd District Councilor Manuel Zarate. Sep. Garcia said that a country's booming population was a serious hindrance to its prosperity but a violation of economic growth. For his part, Zarate pointed out that the proposed law is unconstitutional. The Constitution, article says in Section 3 of Article 13 that the state shall guarantee "the right of spouses to found a family in accordance with their religious convictions and the demands of responsible parenthood."

Las Piñas traffic enforcers retrain

LAS PIÑAS City Mayor Imelda T. Aguilar has ordered the retraining of all traffic enforcers to strengthen and efficiently run the city's traffic thoroughfares, in line with that, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority conducted last week a six-hour course on traffic enforcement and management. It was attended by 143 Las Piñas traffic enforcers who were updated on the latest traffic enforcement methods to instill discipline in motorists and pedestrians.

Hope for troubled marriages

MARRIED couples who need healing for their relationship can seek help from a Retrouvaille weekend scheduled on Aug. 13 to 15 at the Kitchen of Mercy Spiritual Center, Gilid Road, Barangay San Isidro (near San Pedro Seminary), Tagaytay City. Retrouvaille is said to rediscover it is a program designed to help hurt and ailing couples, troubled and hurting marriages. Although a country's booming population was a serious hindrance to its prosperity but a violation of economic growth. For his part, Zarate pointed out that the proposed law is unconstitutional. The Constitution, article says in Section 3 of Article 13 that the state shall guarantee "the right of spouses to found a family in accordance with their religious convictions and the demands of responsible parenthood."

Spare seeds, santol lovers warned

By Leila B. Salaverria

AFTER dinner in her Cavite home last week, 56-year-old Catalina Abueva had a plate of Bangkok santol for dessert.

Trouble was, she also ingested four seeds of the fruit.

The next day, Catalina was writhing in pain. A little over a week later, she had an appendectomy at the Ospital ng Maynila after doctors found a hole in her large intestine caused by the seeds she had swallowed.

Abueva's case is exactly what the Ospital ng Maynila hopes to prevent. Since 2000, its Department of Surgery, under its chair Dr. Reynaldo Jasco, had been joining an advisory warning the public not to swallow santol seeds because of the adverse complications it brings.

The advisory is not meant to make people stop eating santol, he said.

The surgeon's message is simple: "Iwasit! swallow the seeds."

Jasco, also the Assistant Medical Director of the Manila Doctors Hospital, said that since 2001, the Ospital ng Maynila was able to monitor around 200 cases nationwide of patients needing emergency intervention after swallowed santol seeds, either intentionally or unintentionally. Some of the patients had died in the process.

"The sharp ends of the seeds can perforate the intestine, especially when the seeds' fibers are entwined," Jasco said.

When the large intestine is perforated, the feces or body waste spills into the stomach cavity. This can lead to death through a body infection or to the bloodstream.

Jasco said most of the patients who suffer adverse effects after ingesting the seeds are 45 years old or older. This is because older people's large intestines may be weaker due to various illnesses.

Younger people who swallow santol seeds usually pass the seeds during regular bowel movements.

Those who are spared the agony are the ones whose stomachs are diagnosed early. If the problem is identified immediately, countermeasures can be taken at once, Jasco said.

Meanie, a school teacher in Lapu-Lapu for 20 years, said she had learned her lesson.

"Having a colostomy is not a joke," she said, referring to the operation that reversed the seeds from her intestine.

"I also want to warn the public that swallowing the seeds could be dangerous to your health."

Caloocan ABC chair, cop slain in ambush

By Tina G. Santos

THE CHAIR of the Association of Barangay Captains in Caloocan City and his police bodyguard were ambushed and killed in San Roque-Monte City yesterday.

Initial police reports said Roger Serrato, 54, and SPO1 Domingo Villaviciosa were waylaid by at least six men armed mostly with .45 caliber pistols at about noon.

Northern Police District Director Marcelino Francos said the victims were in a white Nissan Frontier on their way to a routine weekend visit to Serrato's pig farm when ambushed in Barangay Bulong Bayan.

Police said the suspects fled on board a commandeered tricycle outside Barangay Muzon.

Sen. Jose del Mercy police are looking at business rivalry as a probable motive in the shooting.

At ABC chair, Bacusa also sat in the Caloocan City Council as sectoral representative. With Senator Marcelino Francos said the victim were in a white Nissan Fron-

Water firms to pay taxes thru swap

By Tina G. Santos

THE METROPOLITAN Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and its two concessionaires have agreed to settle back taxes they owe the Quezon City government by offering their properties to pay their obligations.

Properties placed on the swapping block include several lots owned by the MWSS in Barangays Commonwealth, Bagong Silangan, Batasan, Pasong and Socorro now used either as office sites, parks, playgrounds and barangay outposts.

The water agency has an outstanding real estate tax liability of P988 million with the city government incurred in the past 20 years.

Manila Water Company Inc. only managed to pay the city about P17.7 million, while Maynilad Water Services Inc., paid P2 million, according to city treasurer Victor Endrijo.

GASPAR
fuel saving tips
CHECK RADIATOR FOR COOLANT AND WATER LEVEL.

Murder suspect turns tables on 2 witnesses

By Tina G. Santos

THE PRIME suspect in the murder of an environmental activist in Bicutan is now accusing two witnesses of having done the crime.

Eric Alba filed murder qualified theft and arson charges on Friday against Ferdie Francia and Reynaldo Santiago, Formoso's driver and caretaker respectively, before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office.

In his complaint, Alba claimed that Formoso was alive but gasping for breath when he left his condo unit room at his Quezon City condominium last May 26.

He said Formoso tried to attack him after he rejected his sexual advances as the deceased himself. However, his affidavit did not say how he stayed off Formoso's alleged attacks.

Alba said he was surprised to hear over the radio that Formoso had died due to stab wounds and his unit ransacked.

He then said that the victim's employees killed Formoso.

Santiago and Francia, however, maintained that Alba was the last one with Formoso before the killing was discovered.

DNA test vital in SuperFerry probe

By Leila B. Salaverria

IDENTIFYING tragedy victims using DNA testing is relatively new in the country but it has proven vital in resuming the remains of SF SuperFerry 14 fatalities to their families.

As of last count, 27 of 63 bodies recovered from the ill-fated ship have been identified through DNA testing conducted by the NBI forensics team led by Dr. Ildefonso Pagulayan.

A DNA test uses the unique genetic code of every human being to identify a person.

The rest of the 63 recovered remains were identified by their families, through clothing or identification cards, said Pagulayan.

Three of those passengers were identified through their ID cards only last month, when their bodies were found on one of the decks of SuperFerry 14.

The NBI has reported that only 54 passengers of SuperFerry 14, which caught fire off Corregidor Island last Feb. 27, remain missing.

Pagulayan said that based on the information that they had gathered, 118 passengers were originally reported missing, but figures released by SuperFerry 14 management showed that only 111 passengers had family members looking for them.

Pagulayan expressed hope that of the 54 remaining missing passengers, four would be identified soon since the NBI was conducting DNA testing on four bodies retrieved from the ship last month.

DNA testing takes at least a month to complete.

According to Pagulayan, 11 body bags have been brought to the NBI for DNA testing, but the number of bags does not mean that the bodies contain the remains of 20 people.

He said there were bags that contained the remains of more than one person, noting that some of the bags have more body parts that belonged to two or more victims.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday SPORTS

Editor Teddyvin S. Philandrou

SPORTS TV

BASKETBALL: Utah Rocky Nets, 8 a.m. (vs. Seattle Supersonics)—The All-Star's Team battle Serbia & Montenegro at the close-up match for Athens.

BOXING: 7 mins vs Camden, 10 a.m. (1:30 p.m.) Dave Boyle—Witness another explosive bout.

GOLF: LPGA action: Get Sweet Tooting Action, tomorrow at 5 a.m.; ESPN—Catch the final round of the LPGA event.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Warriors surprise Archers; Tigers up

LA SALLE'S Mark Cardona (left) swipes the ball away from UST's Luis Palogrosa Jr. ALVIN BALIKBAYAN

By Jeannine W. Faye

THE UNIVERSITY of the East Warriors are definitely the surprise kids of the 67th UAAP varsity basketball season.

Despite a rookie-laden roster under first-year coach Elmin Pascueza, the Warriors pulled a shocker by bringing down the De La Salle Archers, 82-79, yesterday at the Araneta Coliseum.

UE's Jacky Isarael, RJ Casadena, shot a career-high 25 points and added 11 rebounds in another sensational performance, Sacky Pedralbe backed him up with 20 points.

"I told my boys to keep it close. It was not that (my brother) Franz lost but our team is hungrier than La Salle. Maybe it's because we have something to prove," said coach Elmin Pascueza, whose brother also coached Ateneo two days ago.

University of Santo Tomas also came out on top of a close contest, downing Adamson, 70-65, behind Isarael Bacani's 23 points.

UE, La Salle and UST ended their first-round campaigns tied for third with 6-3 slates.

Adamson slipped to fourth at 5-4.

UE trailed by nine, 75-66, midway in the fourth quarter before Casadena powered a rally that brought the Warriors within 78-77, 1:09 remaining.

The Warriors finished off the Archers with a 5-2 run down the wire featuring four points by RJ Madrunio.

In women's play Mercedarian kept scored 25 points as the Lady Falcons ripped the Tigresses, 81-51, for their third consecutive win.

Elementary

Tweed game (Boys)

UST 39—Tinsaya 23, De Guzman 10, Asuncion 5, Dizon 2, Pelletier 0, Mabeling 0, Soliva 0, Dimaculangan 1, Fajardo 2, Cuan 0, Abad 0.

ADAMSON 65—Antolin 16, Ecay 11, Catalog 10, Arcalis 6, Cuevas 5, Tongco 5, Sanvictores 12, Tapawan 2, Ador 2, Pobiyaza 0, Nagunian 0, Cassidy 0, Jalmasco 0.

Quarters: 17-14, 34-28, 57-50, 70-65

Grade game (Girls)

JR 82—Gonzales 25, Adriatico 20, Mabalay 10, Palaganas 10, Arellano 9, Dizon 6, Zagado 6, Rojas 5, Limgenco 1.

LE SALLE 79—Yap 17, Quilario 14, Cano 11, Tang 10, Manotoc 8, Cam 7, Arcilla 6, Santillan 2, Bautista 2, Cabalfin 0.

Quarters: 21-11, 41-32, 61-48, 82-79

GAMES TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)

11:30 a.m.—Ateneo vs FEU-Diliman

2 p.m.—UP vs MC (Jrs)

4 p.m.—ICA vs Ateneo (Jrs)

*Live on Studio 23

Tondo girl archer unfazed by great odds

By June Navarro

EIGHT years ago, a dusky petite girl from Tondo, Manila, was curiously watching a bunch of athletes deftly launching arrows at a target made of haystack.

It was the 1996 national open archery and Jennie Figueroa, then 13 years old, came to cheer for her cousin, former national athlete Adelaida Figueroa.

Little did Jennie know that she would soon pick up a bow and arrow and even become the nephew of Adelaida when the now 19-year-old lass shoots for fame and glory in the Olympics in Athens, Greece, next week.

"When I read in the papers that I qualified for the Olympics, my siblings and I were ecstatic. It was unimaginable. I never thought I would be in the Olympics, nor in my wildest dreams," said Figueroa in Filipino.

It was only when National Archery Association of the Philippines secretary general Lipa Mendoza confirmed the report of Figueroa's going to the Olympics that she realized the import of the shooting sensei.

Figueroa was chosen over veteran Jennifer Chan and contemporary Isabel Cabral by the International Archery Federation (Fita), the world governing body of the sport, as a wild-card entry to the Olympics.

The towering third seat BS Physical Education student at the University of Makati immediately plunged into rigid training capped by stints in international tournaments in Turkey and Spain.

Although she landed 72nd out of over a hundred archers in Turkey's Golden Arrow championships and 20th in the Madrid University Games, Figueroa is confident of handling overwhelming odds in Athens.

"I need a customized equipment back then. Now, they gave me a bow that is calibrated just to fit the target with ease," said Figueroa.

"There's this special feeling that I could perform beyond my limits. I've seen and felt the same (fear exciting)," she said, recalling one the times she has bet by 2000 Sydney Olympic gold medalist Yi Ji Jing as the heavy favorite.

Figueroa, however, assures that all the stories have equal chances as the gold medal, pointing out that it all boils down to conditioning, concentration and the equipment to be used.

"It's about focus and balance. A slight touch of the arm or body could yield an undesirable results and this could happen to anybody even to Yu Mi Jung," she explained.

A week prior to her departure to Athens last Friday, Figueroa trained daily at the University of the Philippines archery range under the guidance of national coach Henry Mandalang.

Figueroa also competed in the 2003 World Championships in New York before seeing action in the Grand Prix in Thailand where she finished 12th out of 38 and the second-placer Fita in Malaysia where she landed 14th out of 30.

"These tournaments helped me become a better player. I hope to maximize these experiences when I compete in the Olympics," said Figueroa, whose two sisters and brother are former archers as well.

Figueroa hopes to return from the Olympics as a source of pride not only for her family but the entire country as well.

FIGUEROA

Another mission for Pagdanganan

PAGDANGANAN

TOURISM Sec. Ilocano "Ofel" Pagdanganan and Philippine Sports Commission chair Jose Rabasa will be discussing more than just the 10-man Philippine team to the Athens Olympics.

Pagdanganan and Rabasa are leaving on Wednesday for Greece hoping to also get some pointers from the organizing committee of the Olympics which the country can use when it stages the 2005 Southeast Asian Games here.

The gateway according to the Philippine Hot Games organizing committee chair, is to learn firsthand from the Olympic organizers the mechanics of staging the SEAG here and, in the process, improve the games' odds.

"As I have always said, we have two missions in the SEA Games," said Pagdanganan, "that is to make sure (SEA neighbors) enjoy their stay here by organizing the Games early-well and in the same time beat them for the (overall) title.

"We will beat them in a honorable way," Rabasa said he would study how the Greek government played its role in the Olympics, from building infrastructure down to the marketing of the Games.

"I'm sure we can learn a lesson or two on how to host a sporting spectacle of this scale," said Rabasa. "In our own little way, we are trying to stage our little Olympics here next year."

Pagdanganan said he is optimistic the P1-billion projected budget for the SEA Games would be well worth it because of the big number of foreign tourists expected to visit the country.

The P562 fund earlier estimated that P426 million will be spent for the repairs of the 14 government-owned facilities tapped for the SEAG. Some P100 million more will also be needed to purchase technical equipment including those for scoreboards to be placed at the Rizal track and football stadium.

Half of the estimated budget will be spent for the day-to-day operations of the Games, including the opening and closing ceremonies.

The main bulk of the Olympic delegation, including arena athletes, left for Athens Friday. The rest of the athletes will be proceeding to Athens from their separate training bases abroad.

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WHAT'S INSIDE

■ No rematch for Manny, Manuel until next year /A7

■ US five blasts world champs /A9

Countries that regulate least succeed best

Front page 61

In the Philippines it averages 40 days—that can be much more. To get people out of poverty it must be quick and easy to create businesses that provide jobs and grow the economy.

The Philippines, to [illegible] as one of the ten countries that regulates the most in the five categories examined. Starting a business, hiring and firing workers, enforcing contracts, getting credit, and closing a business.

Take starting a business.

"Regulatory intervention is particularly damaging in countries where its enforcement is subject to abuse and corruption," The Philippines would certainly fit in to the category.

"Regulation in poor countries is more cumbersome in all aspects of business activity. Bolivia, Burkina Faso (where it takes 203 days), Chad, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mali, Mozambique, Paraguay, Philippines, and Venezuela regulate the most."

Australia, Canada, Denmark, Hong Kong, Jamaica, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, Sweden, and the United Kingdom regulate the least."

That has to tell you something, and it does. Stop regulating.

"Heavy regulation is generally associated with more inefficiency in public institutions...longer delays and higher costs—and more unemployed people, corruption, less productivity and investment, but not with better quality of private or public goods. The countries that regulate the most—poor countries...have the least enforcement capacity and the fewest checks and balances on government to ensure that regulatory discretion is not used to abuse businesses and extract bribes." Food certainly think they were talking about the Philippines wouldn't you.

The introduction of a single registration room and allied customs is applying registration have had enormous success. Reducing the number of procedures to minimal and tax registrations and abolishing the minimum capital requirement lightens the burden on entrepreneurs and have been associated with the creation of larger numbers of new businesses. other reforms require legislative change include introducing a general objects clause in the articles of incorporation and removing unreal authorizations and court use from the registration process.

There are many nations where the regulatory burden and customs could be reduced, while the government can reflect much-needed economic [illegible] the tasks that really matter...such as, providing basic social services. Something Thailand has done. Just the Philippines hasn't. The benefits can be enormous. So why don't we do it?

Sweden has a "guillotine" approach for regulatory reform, in which hundreds of obsolete regulations are cancelled once the government periodically requires regulatory agencies to register all enacted regulations.

I particular like the Australian concept with all regulations automatically expiring after a certain period unless specifically renewed by parliament, that places an agency that wishes to extend a burden on business to justify the "minimum necessary regulation." And is mandated to cut regulation in half.

The Philippines would aim for 10 percent of what it presently has and it would be far better off. A fundamental rethink is necessary. What's really needed?

For business only, two procedures—registering for statistical purposes, and for tax and social security—are necessary to fulfill the social functions of the system. Anybody [illegible] to carry out [illegible] to those two. Sundries for those, including registrations with the labor office." The Philippines has [illegible].

And three of five [illegible] doctor can be hired in place of every government official regulating business activity is compliance with employment laws. A trained nurse can be posted in place of every hundred paperwork required by this or that license for running a business." And Filipino children sure need textbooks."

In 2002, Mexico electronically connected all tax offices in the country, and streamlined business registration. As a result, the time to start a business was reduced from 85 to 34 days. Even Vietnam revised its Enterprise Law in 1999 to enhance growth in private business activity. The Philippines has done not [illegible] except only about it.

Successive Philippine governments have promised to "streamline the bureaucracy," but none has in any meaningful way. A dramatic change in thinking, and action is needed.

(Unlike countries can do it, so can the Philippines.

(The author advises multinationals on country risk.)

Carl, Clarence healing as mom settles down

Front page 61

duction throughout the weekend to minimize their movement and discomfort," the hotline said.

When Arlene learned of the twins' successful separation, she and her mother embraced each other for a long time and just wept tears of joy, said Clarence Bustamante, executive director of the Pal Foundation, which partly sponsored the twins' treatment.

Arlene refused to believe the news until the attending surgeon came out of the operating room to give separate hugs, said Bustamante in text-message to the inquirer.

Terms of endearment

The Twins are not called by their individual names but collectively, as Twin, as Reggie turn of endearment for little boys.

"Now the boys will no longer be known by that single collective nickname but will be called Twin Carl and Twin Clarence," she said.

Red vigil candles

In a telephone call to her family in Ilocos, Arlene recalled how, 20 minutes after the operation, Clarence opened his eyes wide and winked at her.

Twin brother Carl could barely open his eyes but still managed to pull out a tube attached to his head.

Both Arlene and Manny Belen knew that the recent period is not yet over.

"Now that the boys are actually separated, Manny Belen still continue to keep red vigil candles burning in the family altar. The known they are not yet out of the woods," he [illegible] said.

Arlene and Manny Belen are optimistic that the twins will make it, said Bustamante. They both believe that the identical twins look like they [illegible] after Manny Belen's side of the family, the Cifers.

"Other men have unusually long lives and are barely. Manny Belen's father is nearly 90. He's proud that he's had to over a hundred. They believe God's and Clarence's Cifer blood will ensure that they will not only survive, but will lead full and productive lives," Bustamante said.

Messages from all over

Heartfelt messages of support and encouragement, each in the cues below, continued to pour in to Arlene and the Chaos medical team from across the United States and around the world.

"My gratitude, respect and admiration goes to all the doctors, nurses and other staff of Montefiore Medical Center involved in this truly selfless endeavor," said one self-styled "fan from the United States.

"We assured that God is with you and He loves your little angels. God bless you all!" said another message from Canada.

Arlene has been heartened by these expressions of concern and hope. (Readers who would like to may post a message at www.inquirer.com.ph.)

Hometown

Back in the Aguirre family's hometown of Bitay Gl.a in Occidental Ilocos, relatives and neighbors continued to pray for the twins in the small chapel in Barlanda. The Mangoy, Rosario Rd.d.

The mass in family has kept the red candle of hope burning in the hands of, rather than the pictures of the twins enplaced.

"We are keeping up for vigil until the candles [illegible] and keep candles lit for the boys at home and at the chapel," said Aida Malcaus, the twins' aunt. *With a report from Lucky B Contreras/Bil Vinzon Bureau*

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JOURNALISTS UNDER SIEGE

'Arming media not the answer'

By TJ Burgonio

"WHY MUST gun violence with gun violence?"

Anti-gun advocate Nandy Pacheco yesterday warned the Philippine National Police for its response to any journalists in the wake of the recent killing of two radio broadcasters.

PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., whose office is sure licenses to carry guns outside the home, had broached the idea anew of arming journalists who were having threats to their lives, police officials said Friday.

"It's very sad, but why should we encourage people to meet gun violence with guns violence," Pacheco, who has been battling for a "gunless society" the past 11 years, said in a phone interview.

"Guns are the problem, guns are the solution? How many more lives are going to be lost because of this?" he said.

3 newsmen shot at

Even as he spoke, unknown gunmen opened fire on three journalists in Cotabato City in the latest attack on the media in the country, police said Saturday.

The journalists from Bombo Radyo returned fire after the assault Thursday which occurred as they were about to get into their vehicle, a police report said. Nobody was hurt in the incident.

Police gave no motive for the attack. It was also not clear if the media men had permits to carry the firearms in their vehicle.

Irresponsibility

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) called the PNP suggestion "the height of irresponsibility."

"It is the height of irresponsibility for the police to think arming journalists is the solution to the continuous media killings. This lame excuse for a response is a virtual admission by law enforcement authorities of how trouble they are against those who seek to silence the press in this country," said Rodney Fujoka Morales, NUJP chair, in a statement.

Instead of this "shallow idea," Pacheco, who heads Gunless Society, asked the PNP to dress up "innovative" activity measures based on principles of peace and action over violence for those facing gun threats.

"It's about time we came up with a holistic approach that between respect for life," he said.

Deterrent to crime

But Senator Sigit Antonio Gordon, director of the police Reserve and Auxiliary Division which issues gun licenses, maintained that gun ownership helped deter crime.

"If people thought you were ready to defend yourself, probably it would deter [them from attacking you]. That's my personal opinion," said Gordon in an interview.

The double last week of Isiah Mercado, correspondent of the tabloid Bulgar and dxBH radio station in Batangas, and Roger Mantano, anchor of dxJC in Laoag City, had highlighted once again the growing need of journalists for protection.

To each gun-related crimes, Pacheco proposed that Congress restore the license suffer poverty for people arrested for illegal possession of firearms.

"The current law is no longer a deterrent. The President should ask Congress to restore the original penalty," he said.

In June 1997, President Fidel V. Ramos signed into law Republic Act No. 8294 reducing the maximum prison term for illegal possession of firearms from 21 years to 6 years.

The measure, authored by then Sen. Rament Revilla, was believed to have been called made for actor Robin Padilla who had been sentenced to from 10 to 18 years in prison for carrying firearms without a license.

Justice sought

The NUJP stressed that journalists were not asking for special privileges from the government.

What journalists are demanding, the NUJP said, is that law enforcers do their job by bringing murderers of media men to justice, thus putting an end to the climate of impunity that has encouraged attacks against the press.

A total of 56 newsmen have been killed in the country since 1986, when press freedom was restored following the ouster of dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Vice President Noli de Castro, meanwhile, has offered a scholarship in Manila to 12-year-old son.

In a statement, De Castro said the scholarship would cover the education of the victim's son through college. With INQ7's Dharel Ann Rarsos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, AFP

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Visitors Map

Korean dies in Boracay

KALIBO CITY—A Korean tourist was killed and another seriously injured in a jet-skiing accident on Boracay island, Aklan, on Friday.

SPO1 Nick Cogolito of the Boracay Special Protection Unit (BSPU) identified the fatality as Hwang Chang Hun, 32, and the injured as Ye Jin Joo, 22.

Hun died of head injuries he suffered after the jet ski he was riding with Joo crashed into a pumpboat anchored about 200 meters from the shore off Barangay Balabag on the northwest tip of Boracay Island.

Joo, who was driving the rented jet ski, apparently lost control of the vehicle moments after he maneuvered to avoid the pumpboat, Cogolito said.

The jet ski crashed into one of the bamboo outriggers of the pumpboat after it traveled about 50 meters. The victims were thrown off and apparently hit their heads on the outriggers, said Cogolito, citing a BSPU report.

Three of the diners were on the pumpboat were injured. They were not identified by their passengers who were snorkeling.

The victims were first taken to the Caticlan Baptist Hospital in the mainland and later transferred to the Kalibo Mission Hospital in the provincial capital.

Hun died at around 7 p.m. at the Kalibo hospital while Joo was transferred to the St. Paul's Hospital in Iloilo City where she is being treated for head injuries.

Hun and Joo were part of a group of Koreans enjoying at the Willy's Island Natural Language Center in Iloilo City who arrived in Boracay on Friday, Cogolito said.

Koreans comprise the largest number of foreign tourists who visit the world famous resort. Xavier P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau

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PACQUIAO in his winning moment against Eleonardo Lucero

No rematch for Manny, Manuel until next year

By Sabrel L. Lagandaq, Contributor

THE EAGERLY awaited rematch between Manny Pacquiao and WBA-IBF featherweight champion Juan Manuel Marquez won't happen until February next year.

This developed following another failed negotiation to pit the two fighters again after their epic bouts last May 8, which ended in a draw.

There were initial negotiations to pit Marquez and Pacquiao right after their first battle, but talks also bogged down after the parties failed to agree on the financial aspect of the rematch.

Pacquiao, acknowledged as the universal featherweight champion and Marquez bought in a 12-round draw in Las Vegas as the Mexican survived three knockdowns in the first round.

Promoter Bob Arum, in an interview with the Mexican press, has already expressed interest in the February date. Arum promotes Marquez.

Leganchez Action Media Bulletin, who also manages Marquez, said his camp is already included for a major 10 defensive against contender Orlando Salido in an undercard to the fight between Oscar De La Hoya and middleweight king Bernard Hopkins.

Pacquiao has recently resumed training in General Santos City, doing light workouts at the gym of businessman Rey Gallagos inside the latter's City Country Homes Resort.

The Filipino counterpart is slated to fly to the United States in the first week of September to hook up with trainer Freddie Roach in preparation for a planned November rematch with Mexico favorite Marquez.

Pacquiao is reportedly lined on putting an exclusive negotiation for his first win over Barrera last November 15 unless he stopped the rematch prior to the scheduled 12 rounds.

Manotoc ties for 11th in British Srs

Mourng N. Castillo

TOBBY Manotoc carded another five-over 77 Friday to finish in an 11th place tie in the British Senior Open Amateur championship won by American Kenny Richardson at The Berkshire in England.

The 55-year-old sportsman of many Philippine home to the good round up with a 226 total, 13 strokes behind Richardson, who turned in a 75 to win countryman Robert Sherry by two.

Manotoc, who became the first representative of the Philippines in the tournament regarded as the third major in England, played with nagging back pains on the final two rounds.

Five americans finished in the top six with Scot Blake Sykes gun crashing the party by finishing third after a 73 for a 229 total.

Richardson, a 38-year-old stockbroker from Southern California and the 2001 winner, played a total of 22 holes on Friday, after rain halted second round play Thursday evening.

His second round 71 gave him a share of the lead with Grieve heading into the final round. At six a bogey-4 in his opening hole for the final round, Richardson went on to knock down four birdies to win the title pulling away.

Richardson has now won the 18 senior amateur and the Senior Amateur in Britain since in the past four years.

Wizards trip foes

UNIVERSITY of Makati hosted on the collegiate forum of Social Lakes to four-team Tournament ng Lungsod ng Biyan (CV 91), and topper to third set. It's last member in the NASL (U basketball tournament on the UM gym.

Lead scorer Dan of his game-high 29 points in the final 34 seconds to fill the Wizards to a hard-earned win over the Eagles, who rallied from a 16-point halftime deficit to keep the game down.

In the first game, St. Clare College signed Gomo (Jackie Gomez, 40-40), to improve to 3-2.

CAGE CLINIC

Children from Alfonso, Cavite, learn the finer points of playing basketball from Southeast Line during the cage clinic of the 2004 All Star in the game recently. The event hosted by Alfonso Mayor Jose Portuguese also featured an exhibition game by the roaring goodwill ballclub of San Miguel Corp. opposite a local selection.

Paraguay, Salvador triumph

GM-candidate Mark Paragua and IM candidate Jesmed Salvador of the Philippines won their respective matches Friday night to share 2nd to 4th place with defending champion IM Darwin Bendjaweyan at 5.5 points after six rounds of the 32 Men International Open Chess Tournament at the Grand Astoria Hotel in Mint, Pennsylvania.

Paragua, who is drawing Mark, beat compatriot IM Ronald Bancod in 24 moves of a Sicilian. Ronald later went on to settle individual report IM Australian Darwin of Taiwan via 35 moves of a Caro-Lan Opening.

IM Rising Leaders of Sportsmanship holds the sole lead with 6.5 points after demolishing IM Bernal Holmes of Croatia in 46 moves of Queen's Gambit Accepted.

IM Tony Rakeski beat compatriot IM Ricky Mackenzie in 28 moves of King's Indian Defense. Defense Piece Pawns struck to climb to 4.5 points.

IM Joseph Sanchez and IM Salvador Stelle (ELO 2340) were at 4.0 points following victories over opponents.

IM Melvin Bernardino

Cardinals dedicate win to slain teammate

BAGUIO CITY—This one was for their mother.

Playing on their homecourt for the first time since tragedy struck, the Baguio Cardinals played their hearts out for their determinate in defeat the Bicol Warriors, 62-73, on Friday in the NBC (National Basketball Championship) finals at the packed University of Baguio gym.

John Rabon, one of the late Antonio's closest friends, scored eight of his 19 points in the fourth and final quarter to stave off Bolo's hero who a game in the southern rising.

Former in Francis of Assisi contributor Bernard Albelo II paced Bolo with 18 points in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic, Spring Cooking Oil, Cebu Pacific, Air Philippines, Solaire Liner, Nissan's Spring Diamond Water, Inquirer, Accel and Mobile.

Andoria and Baguio team captain Joel Bona were involved in a scuffle, being incident last July 12, with incidents mentioning a hard elbow and a head butt which from scorched.

Bona was made a temporary assistant coach while recovering from his injuries.

Andoria's No. 3 player was ordered by the league two meeting commissioners participated in by his immediate family, former teammates, league officials and Ubo representatives.

The Cardinals improved to 2-1 while the Warriors fell to 1-1 after absorbing their fourth straight loss.

Thursday

MEN'S 18—Kiara 70, Sto. Niño de Amado 52 Tot 9, Bantayan Eagles 5, Nitro 3, Mendez 2, Shamen 2, Sagun 2.

GIRLS 18—Alpha 51, Jose M. Laurel 5, Lourdes 5, Rayos 4, Jacinto 4, Paul 2, Jacob 2, Rivera 2.

SPORTSWATCH

Karate World Cup at Megastrade

THE ASSOCIATED Wushu Arts Advancement of Southeast (AAWA) is hosting the 10th KBI Karate World Cup at the Megastrade Rally 1, 2 and 3 of SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City on Aug. 12-15. More than 800 athletes from 20 countries have registered for the tournament. Competitions will be include and karate events for male and female students from eight years old to over 20 years old participants, the international training and technical seminars will be held at SM Megamall on Aug. 11. Dr. Antonio La Salle Quesada from Aug. 9-12. 8-9 a.m. Countries that have confirmed participation are Singapore, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Brunei, Fiji, New Zealand, Australia, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Netherlands, Germany, Slovenia, Italy, Russia, India, Malaysia, Japan, Netherlands, Kazakhstan, Qatar, Taiwan, Latvia, Egypt, Iran and hosts Philippines.

SPCBA wins volleyball opener

SAN PEDRO College of Business Administration won second national title of Perpetual Help Cable Systems-Calamba Eighty-Six team last Friday in the campaign on the 6th Southern Luzon Collegiate and Universities Athletic Association (SLCAA) at the APHES-Calamba Gymnasium. The 6th Team booked on their sixth set play and becoming spikers to dominate the SPHES Blue players, 25-7, 20-14, 25-23, in a battle-tested final second match of their quest to win the title eight in three last year at quarterfinals in a calendar. This is a very hopeful of a good finish. Perpetual Team prepared for this tournament since last summer, said Susana Marquez, athletic director of SPCBA. A collegiate sporting community initiated the title year of the SLCAA, which has in its calendar volleyball, table tennis and chess for its first phase. SLCAA president Frank Gray of St. Francis of Assisi College System Bicutan declared the opening ceremonies Lyceum of the Philippines-Batangas Pallocan Campus last Monday.

MCC unrated active chess today

THE AUGUST edition of MCC Unrated Active Chess quite under way at 10 a.m. today at the Mandaluyong, at 9F Chess Center, Inc. (CCI) Annex Station at Boni City. Open to neighbors, members and other players with RCFP active ratings and over 1800. The event offers P3,000 in first champion. Interested parties must register at the event official head before the tournament starts at 9:30 AM. AMC, 439-8410 and 0918-952-9381.

RP Collegiate Badminton Open

CEL Bicol 2002 and Del Monte Fruit Express, in partnership with the Philippine Badminton Association, challenge the local badminton colleges enthusiasts to join upcoming inaugural Rp Collegiate Open. The RP Collegiate Open is set on Aug. 21-22 at Ateneo Gym. The tournament is open to all college and university students from any of the Duplo/CHED accredited schools, from 16-35 years old, who have a ticket for competition. Players will battle in the singles, doubles, mixed doubles, ladies' doubles, men's doubles and mixed doubles. A meeting on 09193-1000 sets up for qualifying rounds to be held on Aug. 11 at 6 p.m. Elimination and knockout games will be held Sept. 11, 12, 18, 19, 25 and 26 at The Iloilo Midnight II., Makati. Semifinals will be played Oct. 9-11 at the SM Megamall Atrium. For inquiries, call 848-4444 and 247-3572 or e-mail collegiate_2004@yahoo.com.

Hoilkins Radio features Intal, Kramer

CATCH the interviews with JC Intal and Doug Kramer of the Ateneo Blue Eagles, Coach Ariel Dizon and members of the Ateneo Lady Eagles, Jorie Sandy Cruzland the Defiance me on Hoilkins Radio, in one hour at 10 p.m. on DZ 1019 FM. The show is hosted by PBA sportscaster Mico Halili with PBA all-star Dhon Hontiveros and MVP 91 Fatty Lanerian sports and game co-hosts.

Marikina City hosts women's football

MARIKINA City has released into an arrangement with the Philippine Football Federation to host the Philippine Women's Football League (PWFL) match. The PWFL's Under-'19 and Women's Open tournaments will be created by the city government in coordination with the Blue Eagle Gym. Football Association of which Mayor Marides C. Fernando is chairperson. More than 200 women hooters from over 20 clubs across will be battled in the new Marikina Riverbank for the tournament, which begins on Aug. 14. Sunday. Lea Salonga, Gary Valenciano and Kimberly Rivero Tesoro and investment arm Promotions Africa. Orwin Bust, president of the Montreal City Football Association, Benedicto Sarmiento, PFF's deputy general secretary, and Ed Bermudez, PFF's promotions and public body person, are the prime movers of the event.

ASIAN HUNTING STANDOUTS Alexis Acosta from Philippines, opponent Ryo Bonda, Jessica Acuzar Sparanzosa, Aimee Ilarde, Filipino Ryo Kawasaki PH Champion, shake hands after their fight on June 2004

Juan Karlos Open Championship Candidates, Iloilo Left, Brandon Vastis dipper JP Cairo festival Jocie dos Reyes Mac Soriano while 13-year-old Mary Aguilar topped the Boies Mac Juniors.

GMA to retain control of Pagcor purse strings

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo was only paying lip service after all when she announced the transfer of the cash-rich Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) from the Office of the President to the Department of Finance.

What Ms. Arroyo actually disbursed was only her oversight function over Pagcor but not her control over the multi-billion-peso Presidential Social Fund bankrolled by the earnings of the controversial gaming corporation.

In a forum following her speech at the Manila Overseas Press Club on Friday, Ms. Arroyo said she seemed to keep the President's Social Fund firmly under her control.

"But I detect development confirmed her critics' claim that her move to transfer Pagcor to the DoF without amending its charter to give the agency tighter control over its profits was "merely cosmetic."

The President clarified that the DoF would only have "oversight" functions over Pagcor and that state agencies would still remain with her political appointees, who are close associates of First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo.

"The DoF will not run the day-to-day affairs of Pagcor. Rather the DoF will provide financial benchmarks comparable to the performance of gaming corporations that are listed in the frontal brand stock exchanges and Pagcor cannot comply with those benchmarks," the President said.

The Presidential Social Fund which runs into billion of pesos is actually a discretionary fund and is not subject to audit. The President could close down the funds at the Malacañang.

"The President's social fund is not very big and it depends on whatever is the profit of Pagcor. If the profit is small, it is small. If the profit is big, it is big," the President said. She said her social fund was less than P1 billion. "I do not even think it ever went, at least not in my time, beyond P1 billion."

But data culled by sources research showed that Pagcor, based on its published financial records, said it contributed P1.15 billion and P1.1 billion to the President's social fund in 2001 and 2003, respectively.

The President also hinted that she might rethink her move to transfer Pagcor out of her office following controversy that she had been "ill-advised" in the matter. "I think (the observation) is well taken that Pagcor should not be put under the supervision and control of the DoF," the President said.

Pagcor was one of the government agencies that were moved to other major government agencies apparently to bolster bout their performances.

DEPORTEES. Eighteen OFWs were deported from Saudi Arabia recently for having illegal travel documents. Here they report to the OWWA Assistance Counter at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport to relate what happened during their five-month ordeal in Saudi Arabia. In Lebanon, it was a different story (see below). KOCHENGCO

Nothing new on wages front

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has remained dead to the pleas of the labor sector for an increase in the daily minimum wage in the wake of escalating fuel and other consumer prices.

When asked at the Manila Overseas Press Club luncheon Friday if the drought wages should be raised following the increase in oil prices, Ms. Arroyo said, "That is a matter for the Regional Wage Boards to determine and they are independent."

The country's labor unions had long been clamoring for an increase in the daily minimum wage by up to P75 to enable workers to keep up with the rising costs of goods and services in the country.

The government, however, has been able to stave off any broad wage adjustment by citing the inability of most businesses to absorb additional costs.

The demand for higher wages is likely to gain louder, however, after prices of petroleum products recently have risen one step up to a three-year high of 6 percent last month.

The President said the government's main strategy in softening the impact of rising oil prices on the economy is to "minimize the inundation of the oil price increases between rapid and big increases in the prices of basic commodities, especially food and transportation."

Gov't helps OFWs in Lebanon illegally

By Marvin P. Mudil

THE DEPARTMENT of Labor and Employment has started its campaign to deodorize overseas Filipino workers in Lebanon, where thousands of Filipinos are allegedly working illegally.

Don't move came months after three Filipinos who had returned the country using tourist visas died after trying to escape from their employers.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said she has instructed the country's labor attaché in Lebanon to track down these undocumented workers and try to "regularize" them so they could become members of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

Sto. Tomas said this was necessary as the undocumented OFWs could avail of OWWA benefits "whatever happens" to them.

According to Migrants, an overseas workers' group, three Filipinas—Luella Montemayor, Catherine Bautista and Liza Parsons—died to separate incidents between February and May this year after they tried to escape from their abusive employers.

Migrants president Connie Regalado-Bragas said the three were among the thousands of Filipino workers who fled reserved Lebanon without the necessary documents.

Other victims who survived their ordeal in Lebanon, Bragas said, had told Migrants they were able to go to Lebanon with the consent of Philippine import officials who had facilitated their exit.

In a sworn statement, the Presidential Anti-Illegal Recruitment Task Force arrested an alleged illegal recruiter, Berna Magnaba, who had allegedly lured several Filipinas into working in Lebanon.

Some of her victims, who were jailed in Lebanon for lack of documents, had filed cases against her. They also revealed that scores of other Filipinas are languishing in Lebanese jails.

"It's a regular matter and the Department of Foreign Affairs is well aware of it and, in fact, started work in that direction as early as two weeks ago," she said at a recent press conference.

The DFA, she added, had also sent some documents needed for the filing of cases against Magnaba.

Tutors score DepEd inaction on Pasig City education crisis

By Dona Z. Pazolbuga

THE DEPARTMENT of Education has drawn flak for purportedly doing nothing to resolve the education crisis in Pasig City.

The Alliance of Concerned Teachers assailed top education officials for forcing public school students and teachers in Pasig City and for its the reported "power play" among local politicians.

"Why is the Department of Education doing nothing about the situation? Secretary Guillermo de Jesus cannot just wash his hands and say it's a local problem," said ACT Chair Antonio Tinio in a statement.

"Faced with the crisis we're seeing in Pasig, the DepEd must inquire," Tinio said.

Pasig Mayor Vicente Eusebio has withheld local government funds from the city's public schools, claiming shortfalls in tax collection.

But documents obtained by the Inquirer showed that Eusebio had cut off funding in apparent retribution against school division superintendent Emilia Macaraeg,who had refused to give in to the mayor's request to appoint her two of the division's personnel out of Pasig.

Eusebio had accused the two of campaigning for his rival in the May 10 elections, former Pasig congressman Henry Lanot.

Eusebio had also asked Dr. Jesus to transfer the two school personnel out of Pasig, but the education secretary has not responded to his "request."

As a result of Eusebio's holding on to funds, 300 contractual teachers were laid off and the public schools' utility bills amounting to more than a million pesos a month were not paid.

ACT said the average class size in Pasig is 75 students. Due to the unpaid electric bills, electric fans in classrooms remain turned off and class afternoon duties were left to caretakers.

Tinio said the DepEd should take up the financial shackles that the Pasig City government stopped paying its share for the operation and maintenance of city public schools.

"If President Macapagal-Arroyo is really serious about education for all, then her government should muster enough resolve to resolve the crisis. Pushing forth if necessary, inaction would merely prove once more that her management style and focus of the Section is] direct promises were just a lot of hot air," Tinio said.

ACT said the Pasig City education crisis showed up the pitfalls of the national government's policy of "devolution" of education services.

Under the policy, local governments are made to shoulder part of education costs, such as the salaries of contractual teachers, school buildings construction and school upkeeping expenses.

Millions of txtrs set protest

By Norman Bordadora

THE ANTI-TAX coalition Tax Power yesterday threatened to unleash on Monday a barrage of text messages on legislators to pressure Congress into junking the proposed tax on short messaging services (SMS) or text messaging.

In what could be the first cyber protest in the Philippines, Tax Power is calling on the country's estimated 28 million cellular phone users here and abroad to collectively "send creatively" eight to their parents through millions of text messages sent to their congressmen.

"We are calling on all citizens opposed to the imposition of new taxes on our cellphones to participate in the cyber rally," said Tricia Concepcion of Tax Power.

"Today the very medium the government wants to tax, we can shoot back at our tormentors. Expose these legislators on cell phones that are being passed on to the consumers," she added.

Concepcion said Tax Power would publicize on Monday morning the numbers of key legislators who they think would be deeply involved in legalizing President Macapagal-Arroyo's proposal for new tax measures, including that on text messages.

With their numbers known to the millions of cell phone subscribers, it is expected that the congressmen's mobile phones would be barraged, even clogged, with text messages of protest.

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Mauresmo odd girl out in tennis final four

MONTREAL—Unseeded Elena Likhovtseva of Russia upset former world No. 1 Amelie Cogniard of the United States, 6-2, 7-5, in the quarterfinals of the Rogers Cup on Friday.

Second-seeded Amelie Mauresmo of France also advanced to Saturday's semifinals by beating 12th-seeded Karolina Sprem of Croatia, 6-0, 6-2. Sprem defeated Likhovtseva four times in the previous three years.

Likhovtseva will play third-seeded Anastasia Myskina of Russia, the French Open champion who downed 13th-seeded Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria, 7-5, 6-3. Karolina Pitic upset Likhovtseva four times in the previous three years.

Pitic lost to Sprem, a fourth-round loss to Nadia Petrova of Russia, who fell to Mauresmo 6-4, 6-4.

"She's my best friend, so it will be really hard for us," Myskina said of Likhovtseva. "I just hope it's a good match."

Mauresmo will face 19th-seeded Vera Zvonareva of Russia, who defeated 15-year-old Russian Nicole Vaidisova in seven career meetings with Capriati. "But she played well, too."

Capriati recovered from a 5-3 second-set deficit to win it 7-5, but Likhovtseva held service and then sent Capriati wide on a forehand return to end the match.

It is the second week in a row that three Russians have reached the semifinals of a WTA tournament. Last week in San Diego, Moskina, Petrova and Elena Dementieva reached the semis.

The Russian-born Likhovtseva ran circles around every ball from fifth-seeded Capriati in an intense baseline battle between two 28-year-olds on the hard court at Uniprix Stadium.

"I knew I had to control [weather (brain dye) (satellite) from the beginning," said Likhovtseva, who won three times

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Ganca

3 DAYS OF FIGHTING IN NAJAF

US says it killed 300 Iraqis

NAJAF, Iraq—US marines battled Shiite militiamen in the holy city of Najaf for a third day on Saturday as the death toll mounted in the worst bout of fighting in Iraq in four months.

The US military says it has killed some 300 enemy fighters in the fighting, while statements on Friday and two US marines were killed in action in Najaf and one soldier died of an attack in Baghdad.

The fresh fighting marks a major challenge for US-backed Prime Minister Iyad Allawi and has threatened a two-month-old ceasefire between US forces and the Mehdi Army, a militia loyal to radical Shiite Muslim cleric Moqtada Sadr.

Allawi moved to reassure Iraqis on Saturday, a section of marines arrived in Najaf containing the insurgency raging since the fall of Saddam Hussein in April 2003.

The handover of power to Allawi's interim administration in June has failed to stop the wave of bombings, kidnappings and attacks against Iraqi and US forces. The latest upsurge of violence also throws into doubt a conference set for Aug. 15 to choose a 100-member National Council to act as a quasi-parliament.

Residents in Najaf said the streets became exchanged machine gun fire, shells and mortars into the early hours of Saturday. There was a lull for several hours but then fierce fighting erupted again around noon today, residents said.

Hundreds of Mehdi militiamen control the streets around the city's holy shrines, ignoring an ultimatum by the US-appointed government to disarm by the evening.

Shops and businesses remained closed as residents stayed indoors. Some of the fear-ridden ventured out were clearing rubble of badly damaged shops and buildings.

The US marines said on Friday they had killed 300 fighters at Sadr's Mehdi army militia in two days of fighting in Najaf.

But a militia spokesperson said only 36 militiamen had died in several Iraqi cities from clashes that have flashed fears of a new outbreak of violence.

A health ministry official said 35 people had been killed and 180 wounded in fighting in mainly Shiite districts of Baghdad since Thursday. He said eight more were killed and 16 wounded in the southern city of Nasseriya and one person died and two were wounded in the town of Amara.

At the US base in Kuwait, military officials could not give casualty figures from Najaf.

"We don't have accurate figures of the total dead or wounded from Najaf because ambulances are being attacked or seized," he said without giving further details.

Much of the fighting has taken place around the mausoleum and small areas of Najaf's ancient Shiite cemetery, the largest in the Arab world and a popular burial ground for Mehdi fighters. Reuters

BRITISH soldiers fire mortars to illuminate the oil pipeline area for surveillance during a patrol on the southern outskirts of Basra early Aug. 7. Oil pipelines have been the target of sabotage by insurgents and repeated attacks on Iraq's oil infrastructure have defied the interim government's efforts to increase exports and bring in much-needed hard currency for the country's reconstruction. AFP

UN prober faults Sudan for Darfur killings

GENEVA—A UN investigator said on Friday the Sudanese government was largely to blame for a humanitarian disaster in Darfur and its responsibility for large numbers of killings in the region was beyond doubt.

Investigator Juan Jahanga, a Pakistani lawyer, said a June visit to Darfur found overwhelming evidence government forces and militias formerly backed had executed large numbers of civilians.

But according to an agreement reached this week and released on Friday, Sudan had now pledged to act up only once for all violations of refugees, with its disarm marauding militia and stop offensive actions by government troops in civilian areas.

This pact, reached on Wednesday between Sudanese Foreign Minister Mustafa Osman Ismail and UN envoy Jan Pronk, outlines steps the Khartoum government must take within a month in order to be in accordance with a UN Security Council resolution.

After the June 11–20, 2004, attacks on the United States, President George W. Bush also ordered overwhelming support from Congress to invade Iraq, following (now discredited) reports that Saddam Hussein had stockpiled weapons of mass destruction.

In Germany, the 60th anniversary was profiled on state television and in newspaper articles with photos of wartime men in their 70s who proudly recalled fighting the Americans and taking the first US airman prisoner of war following the clash in 1944. AP

US allies in Iraq losing battle for hearts at home

VIENNA—Some of America's staunchest allies in Iraq may be losing the battle for hearts and minds of Iraqis.

Nearly three in four Poles say they oppose keeping soldiers in Iraq, a poll released this week found. The resulting support in Poland—a key coalition member with 2,400 troops in Iraq—prompted Prime Minister Leszek Miller to announce a ramp to counter the Polish withdrawal, while arousing concern among its other partners.

"I don't agree with the troops being there. They are in danger every day, and for what?" asked Marian Grabara, 28, a security guard in Bucharest, which has a 700-member contingent serving with the US-led coalition.

Underscoring the danger, about 60 Hungarian troops were under fire early Friday built to surgeons armed with rifles and rocket-propelled grenades as they patrolled a road in southern Iraq, Romania's defence ministry said. No injuries were reported.

Hungary and Poland are among those the presence of their troops—7 percentage points more than in June—according to the survey released Thursday by the Gfk/Ifak opinion agency. Another 82 percent said they back Poland, which also commands 1,000 troops from 16 nations in Iraq, could face reprisal or retaliation attacks.

Fifty-seven percent of respondents said they want a troop pullout as soon as possible, compared to 60 percent in June, while 29 percent want to see Poland carry through with the mission—5 percent less than in June. The survey of 920 adults had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Poland's high-profile presence in Iraq until the situation there has stabilized, but have said they intend to pare down the number of soldiers to between 1,800 and 2,500 in January.

The Gfk/Ifak survey the only opinion poll cited.

The Czech Republic, which has about 50 troops in Iraq, joined 30 other coalition nations in signing a declaration Thursday that condemns the recent abductions and beheadings of foreign workers by insurgents and urges not to make any concessions to the kidnappers.

But many ordinary Czechs have grave misgivings about their country's involvement in an increasingly bloody and tragic armed drive.

"There's no place for Czech soldiers in Iraq. They should leave the country," said Katerina Uej, dolova, 34, an unemployed young mother in Prague.

The Czech government, which was installed by Bulgaria, has been pressured by the United States, which is urging to keep the coalition together as the wake of troop withdrawals by Spain and the Philippines. Albania, Australia, Britain, Denmark, Estonia, Netherlands, Latvia, New Zealand, Singapore and Slovakia were among other coalition nations to sign it this week.

Bulgaria extends to keep its 460 troops in Iraq despite the kidnappings and beheadings of two civilian Bulgarian truck drivers there in July. Its insistence on sticking with the coalition has prompted rising public unease.

Since its first Bulgarians third shots a country's involvement would provoke a retaliatory terrorist strike on Bulgaria, a recent survey suggested. AP

HOT YOUR USUAL CONCERT
Members of Yamagata Alphorn Club play their alpine horns during a concert in the summer festival in Atsugi city, some 48 km west of Tokyo, Aug. 7. AFP

New sub can carry people to most parts of ocean floor

WASHINGTON—A new deep-sea research vessel will be able to carry people to 99 percent of the ocean floor, diving deeper than the famed Alvin that pioneered the study of seafloor areas, placing scientists and deep-sea creatures over the past 40 years.

The new American submersible will go where the modern coach "not for the faint but for the display," Robert Gagosian, president of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, said Friday at a briefing at the National Science Foundation.

France, Russia and Japan also operate deep sea research vessels, which China is building one, officials said. The new ship will have similar capabilities.

It will dive thousands of feet deeper than Alvin, using more scientific instruments, communications and its mid-may down longer.

Alvin "has been a trusted workhorse for four decades and a good friend, but science advances and so does technology," said Arden Bement, acting director of NSF.

Design for the Alvin replacement is based in part on research conducted in 2000, officials said.

The vessel is expected to be able to descend more than 6,500 meters into the ocean, Alvin dives to just about of 4,500 meters). The new capability will still reach about of the deepest spot in the oceans, more than 10,000 meters in the Mariana Trench.

Only the bathyscaphe Trieste—in 1960—has carried people to that depth, taking just two people there. a fraction of the 12 who have walked on the moon.

The new vessel is expected to cost $211.4 million, paid for by the NSF, with additional funding from Woods Hole for many navies, lighting and sensors. AP

MISS INDONESIA FINALIST
Anshu Agustina, 18, smiles during the final of the Miss Indonesia beauty contest in Jakarta Aug. 6. Agustina, a native of Aceh, became the first Muslim in the annual Miss Indonesia pageant to wear a Muslim head scarf. AFP

Gulf of Tonkin incident still debated 40 years later

By Margie Mason

LONDON—Forty years ago Saturday, the US Congress gave President Lyndon B. Johnson legislation to escalate the war in Vietnam based on now-disputed accounts of attacks by North Vietnamese boats on US destroyers—a decision some compare to its recent approval the invasion of Iraq.

Some argue Johnson and Congress relied hastily based on limited or misleading information about what really happened in the Gulf of Tonkin, a question that continues to be debated today.

Johnson told Americans that on Aug. 2 and Aug. 4, 1964, communist torpedo boats fired on US destroyers in retaliation after the second alleged attack, US aircraft bombed Vietnamese naval bases and an oil depot on Aug. 5.

Two days later, Johnson went to Congress asking for its nod to step up US involvement in Vietnam. Both houses agreed almost unanimously, a decision that would ultimately send America spiraling into its most divisive war, ending with the deaths of some 58,000 Americans and an estimated 3 million Vietnamese troops and civilians.

"Why Gulf of Tonkin? well there was a blank check," said Tony Naumann, an expert on the Vietnam War at Baltimore University in Sylvania. "Certainly very similar to what happened with the congressional resolution on the Iraq War."

The Aug. 2 attack, prompted by secret US-directed commando attacks on the North, is not disputed by either side. But the Vietnamese—along with several American scholars and a US Navy historian—contend that a second attack never occurred.

Many experts analysis of that day to and additional information gathered on the Aug. 4 attack now makes it clear that North Vietnamese naval forces did not attack USS Maddox and USS Turner Joy that night in the summer of 1964," Edward J. Marolda, a senior historian at the US Naval Historical Center, wrote in a report reviewing a 1400-account he co-authored.

The Vietnamese have long denied that a second attack took place. In 1995, former Defense Secretary Robert McNamara even to Hanoi to talk Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap, the mastermind behind North Vietnamese military forces. The two disagreed about what happened in the Gulf of Tonkin during those days in early August. Giap, now nearly 93, argued Vietnam did not attack twice.

"The Vietnamese, nevertheless dare to re-fog their outdated navy forces to fight with the modern ships of the United States in international waters," said Duong Trung Quoc, a Vietnamese historian and high-ranking official. North Vietnam was forced to attack the first time after a US ship entered their waters for the second time it occurred.

Edwin Moise, a professor at Clemson University in South Carolina who published a book about the Tonkin Gulf incident, agrees with Giap.

"It started out as a perfectly genuine mistake; the guys on the two destroyers honestly thought they were under attack, and reported they were under attack" on Aug. 4, he said, adding that it was decidedly that overzealous misidentify saw something else on the radar —birds, US aircraft or even some splashing off their own gunfire.

He does not, however, believe that Johnson actually lied to the American public but rather that the president received bad information and then became so excited that Moise said the belief that a second attack occurred did prompt a swift congressional response that may have otherwise been harder for Johnson to obtain.

"I think he soon learned there probably had not been an attack on Aug. 4," Moise said. "From that point onward he became dishonest, pretending the second attack still supported the reality of the Aug. 4 attack, to avoid political embarrassment."

Lung cancer, road accidents now top killers of Chinese

BEIJING—Lung cancer and traffic accidents have become the top causes of death in China, according to official research, reflecting the huge number of smokers and increasingly hazardous roads.

The study by the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences was based on data gathered between 1991 and 2000 and found that lung cancer had replaced stomach cancer as the most common cause of death among cancers, the China Daily said.

With compact smoking in China, statistics showed an average of 414 people out of 100,000 people die from lung cancers.

The trend was "worrying," said Peng Longhuan, director of the Academy's Institute of Basic Medical Sciences.

Statistics released whereas consumption in the 1990s increased by more than three times the rate in the 1970s and a survey in 1999 found one-third of men in China smoke.

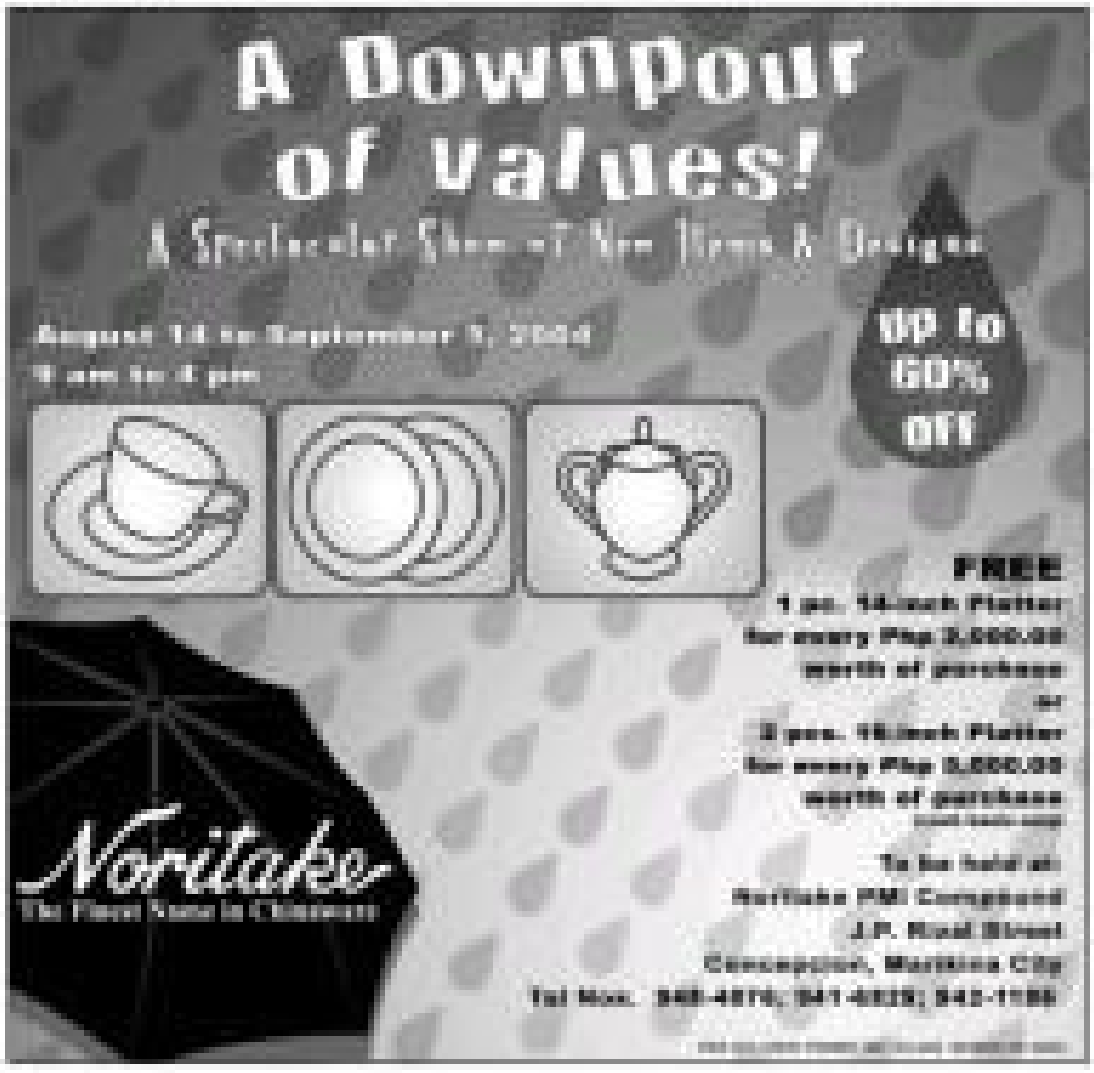
"In the next 30 years, the death rate caused by lung cancer will continue to grow," Peng said.

Smoking — the greatest cause of lung cancer—does not show its effects until 20 to 30 years after the first cigarette.

The study also found that deaths caused by traffic accidents have increased significantly in the past decade as the number of automobiles in China surged.

In 2002, road accidents remained the primary cause of accidental death and replaced suicide as the top cause of injury-related death.

Some 104,000 people were killed on the roads in 2002, and statistics for 13 provinces in the first seven months of 2003 compared with the same period last year ADP



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Cutting Edge rules 1st WHIP Cup race

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Race 6—1. Gold and Shit 2. Real Chase Colonial Affair 3. Ahead of Time 4. Sir Mister 5. Sir Lancelot

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Race 13—1. Blue Iris 2. Chase the Wind Handsome 3. Paradise 4.Dancing Heart 5. Defender 6. Mary Poppins

By Edwin Villanueva
Contributor

CUTTING Edge is at his career-sharp form indeed.

The five-year-old chestnut gelding topped off through the opposition with a solid run at the far turn and raced on to win the inaugural WHIP Philippines Cup race yesterday at the Philippine Racing Club Inc. (PRCI) oval in Sta. Ana Park.

At the end of the 1,600-meter contest, the Patrick Parent-owned Cutting Edge won five lengths away from his nearest pursuers, San Diego Story.

The victory, fashioned out in front of a wildly cheering crowd, was the seventh straight for the Mario Lewerer progeny who started his winning ways on May 28. It was the longest streak than for this season, bowling over Mellow and Speed Mountain had earlier accomplished.

Unnerved for long as regular duties of suing Hilomen for an overlay action when he memorable on if just allowed him to follow the precipitous and when I let him loosen up the half-mile post, I knew we'd win," said jockey Antonio Alcantara Jr., who took over the reins from Louie Bautista after Cutting Edge notched his fifth straight triumph last July 8.

Cutting Edge bagged P240,000 for Papa, who said "This is my victory. I will always cherish because it came in the inaugural race of our friends from the WHIP."

Silver Rose finished third chasing Mahalini, Rollfire, Speed Minister and Winner's Pace.

The first WHIP Cup race, main event of the Philippine Racing Club's "Lucky Saturday" racing festival, was chiefly sponsored by the Philippines under those joints Oling in cooperation with the PRCI.

Aside from Oling, also gracing the smashing affair were Philippines executive director Eddie Jose, commissioner Eduardo Dominguez Jr., PRCI VP for finance Allan Abernathy and officials of the WHIP, the newly licensed group of the members of the horseracing fraternity.

"Even the neighbors are magnanimous to each other. I hope for us to do the good thing," said the owner from "Subway" Sandwiches, adding Cutting Edge will be honed up for the prestigious race.

The 1,600-meter Cutting Edge covered the distance in 1:41 for (20.3, 24, 24.3, 23).

Edwardo Wolter's Pacy and Silver Rose were locked in a tight battle for first since Cutting Edge blew past them. It was all over from there as the Parent jockey strode to the wire with ease.

Rollfire, who was also seeking a seventh straight win, tried to tally from fourth spot but could not muster enough strength and faded out of contention at the top of the stretch.

Meanwhile, action at the popular Makati racetrack resumes today with the first leg of the Juvenile Colt and Filly championships serving as the main attraction.

Juvenile Stakes Series today

LOCAL racing's most promising colt hopes to take center stage today at the Santa Ana Park as they compete in two four-and P1-million events marking the start of the 2004 Philippine Juvenile Stakes Series" for 2-year-old colts and fillies.

The twinbill stakes offering representative Racing Club's weeklong racing schedule and headlines the club's 3-day Sunday program.

Set to compete in the first of two major Type-one races are fifteen recent winners of the Maiden and Group 3 races, who'll be disputing the 1st leg of the 2004 Juvenile Stakes Series" over a distance of 1,400 meters.

Heading the field of challengers are the Eugenio Diablo pair of Lionheart, Hi and Dry Wind, Nicanordo Cruz's impressive maiden winner Rule and Reign, Albert Brimhall's Rush to Rock and Roll winner Beyond Reach, Felipe Co. runner-up campaigner Pyramid Relaunch, Rolly Tan's blind horse contender Undisputed, Leonardo "Sandy" Javier's cagey bred Jedi, Ma. Teresa "Baby" Brimhall's Spell Bound and Bid Autopsy" record group winner Queen Everything.

The highest-rated entries in the field are Undisputed the Gentleman and Jedi By Real Quiet, along with Pyramid Relaunch and Lionheart.

Meanwhile, a crowd field of three 2-year-old colts is set to do battle in the first leg of the Juvenile Colts Stakes Series over 1,400m.

Recent group winners Real Spicy from the Aguirre's Stable and 3000s Stable's Spirit Sensation are expected to dog it out for top honors.

The two can against each other in a Pre-Juvenile Race last July 11 at the Santa Ana Park, with Speed Majesty handily winning the race in a close-by time in 1:26.6s over 1,400m.

Speed Majesty is in his next outing, dominating four other promising 2-year-olds, including his stablemate's Golden Beauty, in the Santa Ana Park Juvenile Race last July 25 and clocking a fast 1:26.4 over 1,400m.

Enough is enough

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

IT begins as a mission to regain a title and get him out of debt. It now appears he is headed for retirement.

Mikkey Tyson could never see himself even without the boat at the prime of his career, games handed he pummeled after absorbing a debut left hook that was as shameful as George W. Bush's forgive that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction arises that cards now, there was none.

Tyson got knocked out in the fourth round by a certain Danny Williams, a 24-year-old journeyman who was supposed to lose to make Tyson comeback again. The truth was, Williams had such much trouble himself the more outside of the ten-after the fight.

If there was any lesson at all to be learned from this fight, it is that boxing seems to have greater name semblance of success here. So Hasbro punky if you know what I mean. But, seriously, as in the case of Tyson, the mind-staring would be Tyson knocking Williams out so easily the fight would be over in 10 seconds flat.

But very, it would appear that Tyson is ready for his big time again.

That way, it would appear that the public is ready to accept Tyson fight the big fights again.

But very, it would appear that Tyson is not just a crippled boxer, but rather, one who has transformed his old thing.

Of all sports, boxing has the most gullible crowd.

Fiends a former great manipulated is having recovered his old, deadly punch and the ring he would be in could quickly transform into a magnet.

Tyson, even at 38, has the positive lust. He maintains his always been a man of passion, his morals of weakness information of life.

Because by nature, man loves guts. Never back on that. He name is like Elvis Presley if this name mark is still a never dies. Ahemer, he was the surefire formula for a boxing Wonderland to succeed.

Also, on that night, Tyson would go down embarrassingly like the much-ballyhooed Titanic.

By thought overnight, didn't have the hand speed that used to quickly fire two or more top fighters worth 30 years ago. He was an aging boxer that night, uncertainly looking for a quick knockout that never came, and never will come again.

"I'm not going to be to him," said Freddie Roach, Tyson's trainer for years. "I'm going to tell him the truth—that retirement is definitely a possibility."

Freddie, in case you have forgotten, is the trainer of our very own Manny Pacquiao. Since Roach managed him for Pacquiao, the Filipino southpaw has yet to taste defeat.

The net case about we are going to go from here," said Roach. "He's 38 years old. We are going to sit down and have a real serious conversation about his future... what direction Mike wants to go. I care about Mike and I don't want to see him get hurt."

Tyson got hurt badly the night Brooklyn and virtually everybody he got knocked out. Tyson opponent was thirty in a stalled 20-minutes each while down on the canvas. It became crystal-clear he had no more to give. And yet Tyson was the same man who, at barely 20 years old, captured the world's heavyweight crown with ferocity that and a power so impressive he could have knocked down the Great Wall of China had he opted to during his dread-ful reign. Such was his power. But those luminous days suddenly seemed, until only George Foreman? A much-smaller pie.

But if it's any consolation, after the debut, Tyson would be a good deal if he were a home based up for eating duties. He was a record that would be the envy of even other home-grudgers when they are on.

Before the fight, a friend of mine sent me this text message: "Pete. It's still by Tyson. Just for fun, a bundle of Tyson?"

He's a dear buddy. I can't bear to see him lose. I figured I'm just encouraged.

She to bring that I had honestly felt Tyson would lose. One who fights to pay debts is a good. A good fighter fights to win. That was the tragedy of Tyson: he fought again hoping to pull himself out of a massive debt. To me, there is the true tragedy in defeat.

Tyson had filed for bankruptcy in 2003 after losing nearly 300 million dollars in boxing purses and endorsements. The fight with Williams earned him 8 million dollars, but most of it will go to his creditors.

Tyson, it was said, agreed to settle a 100-million dollar lawsuit with promoter Don King. In the package was a seven-fight promo pact. If Tyson's debt, the Williams fight was the first.

It could yet be the last for Tyson.

Before the Williams fight, Bob Arum, another big-time promoter in the league of Don King, had also planned a three-fight deal worth 80 million dollars for Tyson. Definitely that, too, will have to go down the drain.

How to save Tyson from getting knocked by his creditors?

A movie? How about his life could do the trick. However, in matters like this, Tyson argued, the script must touch on the pain he being a convicted rapist but not to some degree through his being a convict. Remember the boxing divorce? Definitely not in 1998?

It would be so nice a movie the financial losses of Anthony Hopkins would be reduced to a trifle.

But honestly now, will you still watch Tyson fight if he's dragged in as again?

I know the answer. But don't you dare say it.

I might believe you.

See'emall!

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 8, 2004 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER A 17

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Cuenca

Film fest committee broke own rules, says indie producer

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE METRO Manila Film Festival (MMFF) executive committee "appears" to have violated rules and regulations "in favor of certain producers over the others," according to an independent producer whose entry to the December film fest failed to make it to the final eight.

In a letter to festival overall chair Imelda Bernardo, who is also chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority, MLR Films producer Annabelle Almoro cited four "arbitrary implementations and/or changes to the [MMFF] rules."

MLR Films is the producer of "Mano Po," which is to star real-life lovers Jomar Urbano and Ian Mica and to be directed by Joffrey Jurilla.

The movie failed to make it to the list of MMFF's "Magic 8."

Almoro cited Rule II, Sec. 4, which says "no [even-more] company may be allowed to participate separately if it can do participating as equal producers." She said this was violated when the executive committee allowed the inclusion of "Que Sera Sera," "Mano Po 2," "Sukdulan Inaasa I Wa'y" and "Tigers" among the final eight.

Almoro said all four movies "are producers of the Mastroianni group," referring to Regal matriarch Lily Monteverde. As festival rules, "Que Sera Sera" was identified as a production of Regal Entertainment, "Mano Po 2" of OctoArts Productions, "Sukdulan Inaasa I Wa'y" of RamPhil Productions, and "Tigers" of MegaVision.

"While RamPhil and MegaVision appear to be new players in the industry, the publicity photos of Andrea Brazal show Mrs. Lily Monteverde signing contracts with the lead stars, Judy Ann Santos and Raymart Santiago," said Almoro. "One of the lead stars of 'Tigers' Angel Locsin, is an exclusive contract star of Regal Films."

Bernardo, in a telephone interview with Inquirer Entertainment said he has not read Almoro's letter and therefore could not comment on it. But he denied that rules were relaxed to favor certain producers. "Why would we do such a thing?" he said. "Five women having stand-offishness."

He said he even assigned some MMDA personnel to the MMFF executive committee "so that not all committee members were involved in the deliberations."

Asked what he intended to do about Almoro's complaint, Bernardo said, "If it is valid, we'll do something about it."

In her letter, Almoro also pointed out that the deadline of submission of entries was moved twice from the original July 2 to July 15, and then to July 20.

Almoro said this violated Rule III, Sec. 1, which states that "the submission of scripts/plot [sic] of intended full-length entries shall be within May 2 to July 1, 5 p.m., beyond which no scripts/plot shall be entertained."

MLR Films submitted its entry last June 23, she said.

3 deadlines

She said that by July 1, only three scripts/plot had been submitted: "Mano Po," "Si Boglayet ng Bilog" and "Pangalay sa Buhay." The deadline was moved to July 15, she said.

She said seven of the entries were submitted on the new deadline: "Shrouds Dead but Alive," "Full Moon," "Gumiks de Bomba," "Black Eye," "Star Wishes," "Bikini Queen" and "Sabay si Armando."

But the deadline was moved again, this time to July 23. "It was during this period that a flurry of entries followed," Almoro said. "The third deadline was done to accommodate big producers, no doubt about it."

Almoro also noted that a number of entries were not written who their stars would be, as indicated in their use of words "or" and "choices of." She said this violated Rule II, Sec. 1.3, Rule No. 4, which states that "confirmation of the stars as proof that they are participating in the films should be submitted to the committee."

Almoro also stressed that Rule VIII, Sec. 10 states that "no two entries starring the same leading man or leading lady shall be allowed."

"Probably the lead female star of both Mano Po 3' and 'Sukdulan Inaasa' is Judy Ann Santos," Almoro pointed.

But she said she has nothing against Bernardo. "I'm not doing this to hurt Mother Lily," she said. "I respect her because she is a very creative person. I merely want to point out that something is not right in the system.

"I was hoping that [the case would help] in the film industry," said Almoro, whose film ranked No. 19 on the list of entries.

She said she is not after a slot in the week-long December film festival sometime. "She [refer to me as a [There's already a slot] in the weekend," she said. "I can show my movie on another [location]. But if they [don't] do something about it, they should correct everything, since [it's] against [...]."

RAYS STAR Judy Ann Santos is linked to the lead of two of the final films—another violation, say the complainers

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OPINION

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The twins

SOMETIME later this week, the near-conjoined twins Carl and Clarence Aguirre will emerge from heavy sedation to face each other for the first time. The doctors attending to them are naturally anxious to find out what the two-year-old will make of one another. The rest of the world, however, already knows what to make of them.

EDITORIAL They are miracle babies, who have restored our collective faith in the humanly possible.

At a time when the news is dominated by yet another terror alert, yet more violence in Iraq and the Middle East, yet more scandal or outrage in the government, the 17-hour operation that finally separated the twins was a tonic for a dispirited public.

The operation wasn't the first (it was the fourth since October). It won't be the last either (the delicate reconstruction of the boys' skulls may require three follow-up operations). The twins' vital signs continue to be "strong and stable," but it is too early to declare that they are safe from complications. And the greatest risk in the separation of twins joined at the head remains a constant: one of the two may suffer brain damage or die.

And yet it is already possible to call the series of surgeries a success. For those of us who know next to nothing about brain surgery, the fourth operation alone already qualifies as a miracle: it is an event that does not fit the usual categories of understanding. "This is an enormously complex case," neurosurgeon James Goodrich, the medical team leader, told reporters in a post-surgery news conference. During the operation, he added, the doctors had to reassess medical strategy "every 15 minutes."

The operation revealed the limitations of technology, even of the state-of-the-art kind. Hours into the procedure, the doctors discovered for themselves what computer scans had failed to show. Instead of merely touching, the boys' brains were actually "anatomically linked," in Goodrich's words. The fused area was about two square inches big. After consultation, the doctors decided not to cut the connected parts in two, but to manually tease the brains apart.

"The hope is that the consequence [of separating fused brains] is minimum at best," Goodrich said. (Initial signs have encouraged the medical team to believe that brain damage has in fact been avoided.

The first miracle, then: the tremendous learning of the experts, their years of experience and their delicacy of touch, their dedication and preparation, all these came together in an intricate effort to undo nature's caprice.

And then there is the other, perhaps more remarkable, miracle. The spirit of charity made the series of extremely expensive surgeries possible. Both hospitals involved—the Macmillan Medical Center in New York City, where the surgery was conducted, and the Hyderdale Children's Hospital in Valhalla, where the twins may now receive physical therapy in between operations—donated time and facilities. The team of 20 doctors, led by Goodrich and chief plastic surgeon David Staffenberg, donated their services. Other donors donated airfare, food, money.

Above all, there is the miracle of the twins themselves. More and more people around the world have begun to see the children's character. Despite their condition, the boys have been full of irrepressible cheerfulness, the very zest for life.

The decision to separate them gradually, instead of in one all-or-nothing session, at first seemed ruinable only for the very fit, not mere infants. But after recovering from each operation, the twins have emerged with smiles on their faces.

Thus, in spite of volatile oil prices, another rash of assassinations, surrounding political infighting, and the latest raucously showbiz quarrel, the news last week offered a glimmer of hope. Highly paid specialists who forgo profit; million-dollar equipment used not to kill or maim but to heal; people from all walks of life brought together by unity of purpose: the Aguirre twins have allowed us to see all these, and more.

The sense of possibility may yet be another miracle.

John Kerry and the Democratic party

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

AS A Filipino who was born and grew up during the American regime, and now as keeper of the genuine influence of the United States in international affairs, I have a healthy interest in the politics of this country. This is why I was among the many of my generation who watched the Democratic Party national convention last week that nominated John Kerry and John Edwards to challenge the Republican team of George W. Bush and Dick Cheney in the election next November.

The program featured many stirring and effective speeches, including those of Kerry's two daughters who each praised the virtue and reliability of humility. But although both of their fathers have had distinguished careers in the military as patriotic spokesmen, it was their dad who carried and enjoyed the patriotic audience to heights of euphoria and optimism over their non-champion.

Kerry's speech was inspiring and optimistic. He promised (one hopes) not to do the way with the Democratic Party taking over the White House and Congress the miserly played on wealth, as when he said the American people should secure family values by raising families and the government should see wages way without regard to work the poor. "We should not go to war because we want to," he said. "but because we have to." That was the way he said, in self-respect for and not that of the United States.

Kerry's military service, although his urged was quite clear, he accused the present administration of lies that led the country to war against Iraq. He pledged that as president he would discontinue the privileges of the National Guard and the Army Reserve to keep combat duty in foreign lands, an obvious reference to his presidential rival who somehow slipped at home while other Americans fought and died in Vietnam. He also made a dig at the Republican Bush, pere and fils, for their corporate ties to the Saudi royalty who, according to Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11," own about 7 percent of the United States.

At age 22, Kerry served in Vietnam, where he received several medals for gallantry in action. He later resigned his position in this and even became another protest. In Massachusetts before he was elected and is now on his 19th year as senator for that state. He tried a President Kennedy also from Boston, but it turned out to the interests of the Bushy millions who is known for her regular philanthropies. He sounds as a free two and has a complete head of thick hair at age 60.

As you might already have guessed, I am for Kerry. Not because I am not an American (even My reason, in case you are interested, are twofold.

The first is that I revere the the Bush family. President George H. W. Bush, the father, was a keynote supporter of President Marcos. In the height of that tyrant's rule, then Vice President Bush visited the Philippines and echoing President Ronald Reagan, another admirer of Marcos, praised the despot's government for "its achievements in democratic principles." (After he did not know what he was talking about, which was unlikely, as he was lying in his teeth.

George the son is another matter. I do not think he was validly elected President of the United States. He rigged the election in Florida, where Bobby's brother was the governor, was rigged to favor Bush. The 5-to-4 Supreme Court decision that ended the recounting, for example, was not based on the Constitution but on the fact that it was the Supreme Court that elected George W. Bush but it is John Kerry who will have to preside over its new members.

My other reason is that the Democrats in Power has been more sympathetic to the Philippines than the Republicans. It was Franklin Roosevelt who ordered the colonization of our country as the "member country" of the United States. Woodrow Wilson of the Democrats approved the Jones Law of 1916, otherwise known as the Philippine Autonomy Act. When the 73rd Congress passed the Hare-Hawes-Cutting Bill that promised independence as the Philippines, it was vetoed by the Republican president, Herbert Hoover, it was later replaced by the Tydings-McDuffie Act under the presidency of his Democratic successor, Franklin D. Roosevelt. It was another Democratic president, Harry Truman, who withdrew American sovereignty over the Philippines in 1946 and appointed our ambassador into the family of nations.

This is not to say that the Republican Party exploited or has the Democratic Party did not. It also did but since less enthusiastic than Neil Jones that controlled the Republican Party and its reverence for the Almighty Dollar. Between Theodore Roosevelt, a Republican Roosevelt, it was the latter who insisted with a friendlier and less mercantilistic eye on the Philippines.

And to this Sentimental, the American voters will decide between George W. Bush, their incumbent president, and John Kerry, the formidable opponents. It is a choice, as I see it, between the Ugly American that she would do more and a less arrogant United States, with its respect for human rights, the sovereignty of states, and the rule of law.

Ready? Get set. Go!

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

DO you have the story about a farmer who told his parents that she had only six weeks to live? Shocked, the parents said, "Oh dear, then at six months. I don't even know how I can pay your medical bills." "In that case, I am giving you another six months to live," the doctor replied.

* * *

In today's Gospel (Lk. 12, 35-40), Jesus reminds us to be ready for the Son of Man will come at an hour we do not expect. No one knows when death will come, and we are one sad morning can stop it when it comes. In the face of the finality and indeterminacy of death, Jesus' advice is simple: Don't stop living. Just be ready for it.

Are you ready? Are you set to go?

* * *

I remember how much I prayed to God to keep my father alive while he was at the ICU in 1997. I kept vigil every night at St. Luke's Hospital, bargaining with God, to let my father live a little bit more, but after all, I was His grace who had served Him all these years. I even reminded him I had blessed and anointed others who needed my priestly services at the emergency room, hoping that I could "bribe" God to let my father live, but it was to no avail. For all is no avail. There is nothing in us that could stop death. What made it more painful for me was that I wasn't there in his deathbed when he passed away at 3 p.m. of June 23, 1997. Then was the only afternoon when I left the hospital to join my fellow priests for a meal, and when I came back, the nurses were already removing the tubes and the needles from his lifeless body. That sad afternoon, I accepted in a very personal way that death is real and final. A time to live and another to die.

* * *

Someone in the mail on the email wherein said that when we know we must on our appearance, we tend to forget that "things" are important." We all will die. None of us will leave this world alive. We know that we will make the journey into the "grave beyond" sooner or later, and yet we do not prepare and make provisions for the journey. Many of us are so busy packing up buildings on the closet and setting up resources in the bank that we forget to pack and unpack the ship that will bring us into the sea.

* * *

Am I ready? I don't know anyone! All that is asked of us is to do our best, not very best, while we are still alive. The best we can is that as showed of our lives, when we finally lose our Creator, if we can tell Him, "Lord you know me. You know everything about me. I set a target, but I have done my very best, as was I know me now," then we have hope. we have prepared ourselves to die and, we can say ourselves into God's mercy and love.

* * *

There is a story about a priest who was trying to say some words of comfort to the relatives of the deceased. He used the analogy of the airplane. Pointing to the cockpit, he said, "Actually, what we see here is the shell, the rest is gone!" Oh, oh. Come to think of it, many of us are really here to the sense that we pursue foolish passions, dreams and illusions in our lifetime.

* * *

Have you had a "wake-up call" recently? From time to time, in oppressive times, God sends us his wake-up call: tragedies and experiences to make us up from our comfortable slumber, to remind us of what is really important and basic in our lives. Pain, disappointment, accidents, illness, separations, setbacks, death and near death experiences make us go back to God's intended flight plan for us. A wake-up call is God's way of saying "I love you," in a painful way to make us up.

* * *

The time to love is now, not later, not tomorrow, not next year. The best preparation for a happy death is a well spent life, a life full of meaning, service and love. Loving is like planting trees. The best time to plant them was 10 years ago. The second best time to plant them is now.

* * *

Bishop Reloj, when asked as to what happens to our unanswered prayers, replied that perhaps our guardian angels gather them up to give their fruit when we shall have grown wise and can see them rightfully. But when if we are not ready for them, we may relate and won't figure, the message is clear: Do not postpone your living, do not postpone your salvation.

* * *

Last Aug. 4, the feast of St. John Mariaty, we celebrated at Pedro's Bay, Rizal a truly down to earth and Caring Saint Rafael Hospital. I met a couple at the elevator who casually informed me that they Alfredo Rodriguez was at Room 504, Bring Priests. One and all, I threw up to those lines and ask for his blessing. On my way down, guess what? I met someone who told me she was going to visit Fr. Carlos Sanchez at Room 110, and up I went again. And, as I was going down again, I met the family of Fr. Joey Duran, SOR, so, you guessed it, up I went again. We, the Sisters were in room for we knew no other door out the door!

* * *

A moment with the Lord.

Lord, help me to be always ready, and always hopeful, because anytime, I may go down.

Ateneo's 'El Cid'

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

At THE 11th century, a Spanish soldier, Rodrigo Diaz, emerged as the prototype of the noble and heroic Castilian who defended his king against Moorish invaders. His life story became the basis of a popular movie in the '60s with Charlton Heston playing the role of El Cid Campeador, the Lord Champion. Starring with Heston was the beautiful Sophia Loren, who as the good Jimenez of San Clino. If we go by the movies version, it was a supposed Moor prince who bestowed the title "El Cid" on Rodrigo in recognition of his humanity and chivalry on the battlefield. Thus, the Spanish hero, who is actually surnamed "El Cid" mentioning in head his self, then runs battle turning away the Moors who were besieging the city of Valencia. He is considered a national hero of Spain.

• • •

After a miserable Philippine Basketball League (PBL) season which saw the former players of Ian Atoc in the other position, few gave their much of a chance in the UAAP. Lost to the professional league were former stars Rich Alvarez and Wesley Gonzales and most importantly, coach Joel Banal. A traditional powerhouse, Ateneo was saturated with privateers rather than basketball rookies, was installed as the team mentor. While Sandy Arespacochaga had given Ateneo a championship in the junior competition, there was some concern as to how he would fare in the "big league." Besides, veteran PBA coach Norman Black was hired as a consultant seemed to support this apprehension, but in the games which followed Sandy proved that he was more than up to the challenge.

Surprisingly, Ateneo's first victory of the season was over its arch rival De La Salle University, breaking 16 years of opening game triumphs by the Green Archers. This was followed by wins over the UE Red Warriors and the UST Tigers. Then the unthinkable happened. Ateneo lost its much-against their Philippine neighbor—the UP Maroons. Larry Fonacier, Ateneo's steady captain and gifted scorer, was driving for a lay up early in

the second quarter when his left knee collapsed from a torn anterior cruciate ligament (ACL), requiring surgery for its repair. The injury effectively ended a five-year UAAP career which included a stint with the 2002 championship team.

For Larry, who last year won the sportsmanship award given by sportswriters covering the UAAP beat, it was a great disappointment and setback. In his last year with the Eagles, he was hoping to bring home one more championship crown to Loyola Heights.

In its fourth game against Adamson University Ateneo appeared to be on the losing end of a rout, trailing the Falcons by as much as 20 points. But in the last quarter, as though inspired by this spirit of their injured leader, the team rallied to beat the Falcons on a last second jumper by L.A. Tenorio, who later told the fans that it was aided for Larry.

Since his injury, the Ateneo community has lovingly called "Larry" banners and streamers. On number 14 uniform worn by Tolentino was by Ateneo fans, and the Blues Lemon Squad Center was decorated with a giant poster of Larry Fonacier Havoc in the history of Ateneo sports has an individual been showered with so much admiration and affection as one simply found in those fans around the country expressing concern while praising he his speedy recovery and continuing success in the future. Even the 1922 Tamaraw, the UAAP defending champions, sent him cover to wish him well. To no avail, that is quintessential in all highest levels. Ateneo won't get over the excitement of their appearance the only noble warriors lend a helping hand to a fallen foe.

• • •

Recently, in a heavily-loving a blow to celebrate the Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola, Ateneo president Bienvenido Nebres spoke of Larry Fonacier. "Sports commentators in the newspapers have compared the impact of Larry's injury to something like death—passing prior to any Ateneo team. But Larry was not dependent nor did he dwell on his injury and disappointment. He put time in encouraging and cheer on his team. He talked to each member of the team, telling them to carry one another and to carry the team. In the agony and intensity of the practice session, I saw Larry encouraging his teammates in spite of himself and pain and the team. Larry chose life and chose blessing. He chose to give life and to carry his team." Last Thursday Ateneo scored its 10th straight win at the expense of National University. Today, the Loyola eagles will be up against their toughest opponents. The FEU Tamaraws. Like the wounded warrior El Cid, Larry Fonacier will be around to rally his teammates and continue to be a source of inspiration and strength for the Blue Eagles and their multitude of followers.

• • •

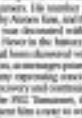
The Business of Informal Sovereign Continental celebration last week was a pleasant departure from previous anniversary rites. Instead of the usual figures and statistics on revenue performance, the evening was highlighted by a tribute to the pioneers who were instrumental in the development of the agency from 1906—when an American, John Hord, was first named to head the Bureau—up to the present. Instead of honoring the top taxpayers of the nation, recognition was given to those companies whose payments showed remarkable increases as from 2002 to 2003. The top three in the category were: 3M Philos Holdings, GMA Network and Boracay Private Power Corp.

Interesting in full force to lend support to BIR Commissioner Milo Parayno was his classmates from the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1976, led by PMP Chief Bienvenido Elalisa Jr.

A missionary's story

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



ONE of the Jimmy Ward fathers who helped to observe the 100th year of its service for the first time Thursday was Fr. Bella Alcalde, SVD. Now based in Christ the King Seminary, he felt sorry is quite fascinating and I thought to deserve a column all to itself.

Since he paid those for us on a biennial, Father Bella ended up celebrating the same Mass for Sunday explaining that he decided to hold an "anticipated" Sunday Mass for those who would not be coming on the next day. The Gospel for that Mass happened to be on Jesus' message about the futility of acquiring and accumulating material possessions, which is Heaven would not count for much in the end. "Of what use is all that if you lose your life. And this, said the retired Father Bella, is something he knows to be true, based on his own life experience.

Father Bella and I met his days of youth, he of many "firsts" in the annals of Mindanao. He was the first missionary priest, the first to be ordained in Cotabato, and the first to be ordained in Africa." A revered missionary priest, he must be pointed out, is highly revered in missionary order like the Society of the Divine Word. For a missionary, like Father Bella who admitted he wasn't one of the better students—academically speaking—to place for an African mission area, to put it gently, earlier consolation.

But imagine his surprise, he recounted, when, after his ordination, his superiors told him that instead of Africa, he was being sent to Timor. He would be sent to Africa as a missionary.

Before being shipped to Africa, Father Bella and other Filipino confreres spent some months in Belgium to learn French. He recounted laughingly, "Many of us were kind of cool [to Belgium], we observed that while our English and Filipino had improved, we learned very little French."

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THEIR superiors then decided that the only way the missionaries would learn French was to have their new places of assignment win for them to be transferred to the military. Father Bella was assigned to the Democratic Republic of Congo, at that time known as Zaire and before that Belgian Congo. It was the height of the Cold War, so Father Bella spent more time brushing up on his French and learning the four major languages in the

country and the region, including Kiswahili, which is spoken in 14 African countries.

"But I was restless and kept asking my superiors to send me out to the jungle," Father Bella recalls. Congo, he notes, is very rich in natural resources, including diamond mines and rare minerals, but the poverty of the people is appalling. Finally his superiors gave in and assigned him to a remote area, where no Catholic missionary had vessel, deep in the forests of Congo.

"There were hardly any roads or means of transportation," Father Bella recalls. Once, in broken-cracked themselves in him while he was hunting a river he stood out in Gail. "Lord, I know I asked to be assigned to a mission in the African jungle, but did you have to be so literal?"

The words never recounted Father Bella, was finding out, when he finally arrived in his new parish, that his by-then novice-able French and missionary knowledge of the local Bantu and Lingala languages were virtually useless in the area. The people spoke an unfamiliar tongue, known as Bangalese, and like Father Bella had to learn on his own, otherwise he wouldn't be able even to say Mass!

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THOSE of you who've read "The Mountain Fable," might have an idea of what Father Bella went up against. The novel, on account of an unfortunate encounter with a leopard, was cast in a tumultuous province of the country's history, as the fledgling republic sought not just to establish democracy after decades of Belgian colonialism, but also to find an independent stance in a world torn by the Cold War. "The Poisonwood Bible" details the events leading up to the assassination of Patrice Lumumba, which anyway was carried out with the assistance of the Belgians and the Central Intelligence Agency, and the military takeover led by Joseph Mobutu.

Father Bella arrived in Congo at a time of relative calm, during the term of Mobutu, who received praises and order but was notorious for corruption.

Mobutu's national political events had little meaning at this time for Father Bella, who was busy learning Bangalese, translating the bible and other liturgy into this language, and building a church and mission post. At one point, he says, he was taking over 3000 heads of cattle, as well as eggs, chickens and other livestock all to be consumed by himself and school. Father Bella, the simple boy from Leyte, had finally found he "fit" his mission.

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YET eventually his African world had to come to an end. In 1967, Congo became the battleground of what some commentators call "Africa's World War," as refugees from massacres Rwanda poured through its borders, and Congolese, Rwandans and Ugandans formed the country. Finally, Congo was torn by ethnic strife, warfare and upheaval, and even Father Bella, in his jungle mission, was not spared for long from the violence.

Father Bella's last encounter with guerrillas, rebels and foreign troops—Father Bella was forced to flee his mission, crossing the border to another mission. "I stayed there for a few months, hoping to be able to go back and get the mission up and running again, but finally, I didn't want all my years of hard work to go to waste. But eventually my superiors decided to send me home, especially after I developed a heart ailment."

Today, Father Bella is teaching at Christ the King and taking things relatively easy, though his days in Congo, his livestock, and his missions are not very far from his mind, or from his stories. Father Bella knows, more than most, the difficulty of attaining democracy and stability in countries that have only recently emerged from the Cold War's "The Poisonwood Bible" details the events leading up to the assassination of Patrice Lumumba, which anyway was carried out with the assistance of the Belgians and the Central Intelligence Agency, and the military takeover led by Joseph Mobutu.

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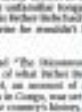
Values

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David



ON APRIL 30 this year, President Macapagal-Arroyo signed Executive Order 324 creating a Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC), which, we are told, she herself will head. To this new commission have been invited, as members, the leaders of the country's various religious communities. At 12:14 is being billed as a component of the country's package of anti-corruption and good governance initiatives. The implication is great for the commission is "to establish a strong moral foundation for moral value formation in the government bureaucracy."

This is nothing but glaringly obvious. An idea like the PAGC is yet another example of the Philippine penchant for confronting complex problems by lip service. A nation cannot build new values by means of a presidential order. It can only do so by allowing its whole institutional practice.

Values are the things that a community desires or considers desirable. They constitute the ideals of a society, providing its unity and coherence. Values are not invented overnight. They are closely woven over time, passed on in succeeding generations who use them as guides in their quest for solutions to the problems of living.

We are born into a world of values. Whether our parents want it or not, we learn their moral values. There is little we can do about values except to become conscious of their presence and impact on our lives, to criticize or celebrate them, to embrace those that awaken us, and to promote those that strengthen us. Nietzsche says that we must treat values as hypotheses. We must test them. The superior values by watching others live by them, not by listening to sermons about values. Value talk is cheap. What is valuable is example.

Sociologists investigating the values of a given society do not rely on what moral values say or claim to be, or on what they claim to be their own actions. They do so by observing behavior and by looking for signs of the preferences that

actually orient the everyday lives of people.

By the same token, lawmaking bodies since build among moral values cannot begin by marshaling a team of religious leaders and asking them what our values should be. Only we may all decide what our values should be, though we may disagree on the importance we assign to those values. But it is one thing to profess values, and another thing to live by them. I think our main problem is that there is a large gap between the values we claim to believe in and the values we actually live by.

Our Constitution's Declaration of Principles and State Policies may be read as a litany of our nation's core values. Yet the conduct of our national life is antithetical to almost everything the Constitution celebrates. We don't take our constitutional values seriously. It is obvious that confronting them in the nation's basic charter does not guarantee their realization. The problem is not their lack of clarity. The problem is their irrelevance to our national life.

The fault is not in the values themselves, or in our power or stars. It is simply that the conditions that make it possible for us to live up to our Constitution's values experience are not there. We actually live by another set of values that are more congenial to the kind of society we are, more feudal than democratic, more traditional than modern, reflecting the social instincts of a highly unequal and underdeveloped nation.

The failure to abolish graft and corruption are ours diverse conditions. We have not been lacking in high-minded ideas. The 1987 Constitution always a whole article on the accountability of public officials. Section 1 of Art. 11 is explicit: "Public office is a public trust. Public officers and employees must at all times be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty and efficiency, act with patriotism and justice, and lead modest lives."

These are progressive values prescribed in modern societies where public office is not either to honor obtain or by appointment based on merit, and instead not as elective position but as a vocation, not as a means for advancing private interests but as an instrument for achieving the public good, not as the exclusive right of a few wealthy and well-connected families but as an opportunity for all citizens.

Such public values are difficult to cultivate in a society where the nature of the people are poor and dependent on the power, protection and patronage of the few. The problem of graft and corruption is rooted in the very nature of our political and economic system. The values we determine to do driving force of graft and corruption are the same ones that build solidarity in traditional societies like ours. Today we are compelled to re-examine those values because they clash with the requirements of modern nationhood and with the rules of a democratic political system.

As a nation communities, if it is not to be a runaway creation, should not begin by prescribing and promoting values. Rather it should be investigating those operative values that actually lie behind the different practices of our public life. It should be asking why, despite the fact that we profess to believe in equality, we tolerate such great disparity between social and economic classes, and why benefits from them. Only when we have come to terms with graft and corruption—not so much as a violation of values but rather as the direct result of a jaundiced set of values now increasingly obsolete—can we take the first step toward freeing our country from its grip.

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Comments to davidrandy@yahoo.com

The Malaysian model

AS THE Philippines debates its relationship with the United States, Malaysia is trying to navigate past its own stormy ties with Washington.

Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi has just returned from a successful tour of three important western capitals—Washington, D.C., Paris and London.

In all three countries, much was made of Malaysia's ability to manage—and win—the trust of the United States, not only its money and vital financial position, as well as a majority Muslim population.

Given the acute failure of US-led initiatives in the Middle East, many American policymakers are wondering whether Malaysia, with its democracy, high growth rates and remarkable peacefulness, could serve as a model for the Arab world. Certainly George W. Bush's grand plans for a democratic Middle East could do with a success story to hold up for viewpoint.

However, having just returned from completing an annual (the next leg) in Saudi Arabia, I'd have to caution the optimists in Washington. Malaysia does not possess the key to unlocking the Arab mind-world. If anything, the influence works in the other direction.

For countries like Malaysia and Indonesia, which are on the periphery of the Islamic world, the challenge, if any, is to balance and moderate the Arab—and especially the Saudi—impact on our lives and our politics.

Somehow, we in Muslim countries have the faith, but with our cultural roots in Hinduism, Buddhism and animism, we have previous links in common with our brothers and sisters from the Middle East.

Still, my intense and exhilarating experience in the Holy Cities of Mecca and Medina and visits to thousands of fellow Muslims from across the globe has made me realize the immense pressure in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

It is such a model—the first as all. With close to 25 percent of known global reserves, the Kingdom remains critical resource for future economic growth. The second is all too often overlooked, but in time will be more important: Saudi Arabia remains the linchpin of the Islamic world.

Imagine, for example, the power and the influence of the imams of the two main mosques in Mecca and Medina. For decades now, they have been in a position to define the tenets of Islamic orthodoxy, constricting their own Wahabi interpretation of the faith.

Moreover, Saudi clerics are able to voice their concerns through the huge petrol that wealth and control of vast hundreds of thousands of Muslims every day five times a day.

In the week that I was there, I noticed the emotional and severe caught tone of the imams' prayers. Given the possibility of attacks against the Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem, the likelihood of military intervention in Sudan and the American occupation of Iraq, the sense of oppressed threat cannot be underestimated. Those fears and paranoia were conveyed forcefully to everyone present.

Moreover, the numbers involved are significant. In 2003, some 4.3 million pilgrims descended on the Hajaz, with next year's million constituting the Hajj. It is estimated that by 2014, the numbers will have tripled to over 14 million.

Saudi Arabia is a country in the midst of transition. It faces internal tensions and after decades of near total control, the ruling Saud family is faced with numerous critical challenges. While the Kingdom is desperately trying to adjust to the altered circumstances, it is not yet ready.

There are universal pressures from the Americans, who see the Kingdom as a source for radicalism and terrorists, having ignored Saudi Arabia's internal politics for decades, Americans now want immediate reform.

In addition, the Kingdom has been unable to create a resilient economy that doesn't result in its fortunes are but bound in perpetuity to the oscillations of the oil market. Its equity GDP fell from highs of $263,000 in the early 1980s to a shockingly $45,000 in 1998, only to recover with the oil price spike to $9,500 in 2003.

Such disfunctions create enormous tension on any society as people's expectations are upended and then dashed. Currently the Kingdom is undertaking a program of gradual policy of "Saudization" to reduce mounting unemployment and unhealthy dependence on foreign labor. However, much of the indigenous population resents being forced to work in menial jobs.

On the political front, the long term alliance between the royal family and the ulema is fraying. Allegations of corruption and nepotism are rife. The ulema are also divided over a host of issues, including American adventurism in the Gulf and the presence of non-Muslims in the Kingdom.

The absence of a genuine political discourse has driven the opposition—many of which is genuine and sincere—underground. Some with experience fighting the soviets in Afghanistan have brought the violence back with them to Jiddah and Dammam.

Thankfully, most Saudis are too comfortable to take to the streets. And while the level of resentment is real, the likelihood of an Iranian-style revolution is unlikely.

But one billion Muslims, a smooth and gradual liberalization of Saudi Arabia is infinitely preferable to a democratic "big bang." Moreover, it's foolish to think that Saudi Arabia, with its own peculiar challenges, can learn from Malaysia or anywhere else.

Saudi's gradual strategies will have to wait: evolution is better than revolution.

EYE ON ASIA

Karim Raslan

THEY SAID

Cold war

"At last, it is a cold war between groups which are friends on the surface."
—Rep. Jose Solano, about things to be done to identify interests who participate in Lotus scandal/coup

Outrage

"It is a world order where globalization has become a means of world leaders and others national pride is often sacrificed at the altar of internal consumption, we should not lose our capacity for outrage. Otherwise, we will find ourselves morally and intellectually disarmed."
—Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. on shameful extension of US detention at Guantanamo Bay from Iraq

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TALK OF THE TOWN

Is the air we breathe safe?

THE ANNOUNCEMENT of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) on July 27 that the quality of air in Metro Manila and neighboring provinces was "within the policy standards that safeguard human health and the environment" took the breath of many people away.

The EMB said data from eight monitoring stations did not exceed the guidelines for ambient air that the Clean Air Act had set. The Metro Manila Development Authority supported the EMB findings, saying that smoother traffic flow had contributed to cleaner air in the metropolis.

But after concerned citizens and the media challenged the findings, the EMB clarified that the data it gathered from June 21 to July 26 did not include results of the unusually monitored air quality in hotspots like Edsa, Ria el Arroyo and 26th Avenue.

The EMB then said on Aug. 3 that pollution levels in Makati, Quezon City and Valenzuela had gone up and "therefore, unhealthful and could cause respiratory illnesses."

With just four automatic monitoring stations in Metro Manila (Hampton in Quezon City, Roxas Boulevard in Makati, Sta. Mesa in Manila and Valenzuela), the EMB can not just say the data from these stations will apply to the other 13 cities and municipalities in the metropolis.

Besides, the stations in Quezon City is on the Ateneo de Manila University campus and the one in Makati is right inside the Army camp, areas known for their huge trees and expanses of greenery.

Sweeping generalizations from the EMB can be dangerous to one's health.

Blunder allows review of clean air program

By Ron Hernandez
Senior Columnist,
Newspaper International

FIVE years after the enactment of the Clean Air Act (CAA), Metro Manila still ranks among the most polluted cities in the world. While the recent EMB findings may be the first pronouncement of the national and local governments about the improving air quality in the metropolis, the only unanimous conclusion is such officials see a chance to capitalize on a skeptical public—for "clean-the" office is an opportunity to secure, valedictory and progress has been achieved in the area of pollution control in the country.

In 2000, the World Bank said that air pollution in the country's urban areas was causing an estimated 2,000 premature deaths, 9,400 cases of chronic bronchitis and 51 million days of respiratory illnesses each year. This translates to about $1.5 billion in terms of medical costs, lost wages and declining productivity.

It is doubtful if the impetus has dissipated dramatically in the last two years. Studies show building a supposedly improvement in the levels of air pollutants in the metropolis, a better indicator of pollution changes would be an across-the-board reduction in the above set of very contrasts. We would have what the air is getting cleaner when less people are suffering from pollution-induced respiratory illnesses.

Most recently, the World Health Organization released in with its own more alarming statistics: three million children under the age of five are dying each year worldwide because of pollutants and water and other environmental hazards. To be really blunt about it, worsening levels of pollution are killing children.

While the former set of myth statistics remain somewhat far more of us, the harsh reality waters as to the facts—pollution is invisible. But the former, the increases in the level of pollutants and toxic emissions in the environment results in a higher death rate particularly for the most vulnerable sectors of the population, children and senior citizens. How much harm is unacceptable?

The emergence of the CAA has been severely hailed as an environmental milestone. Its limits, however, that implementing the law in this country is fraught with the usual "challenges" that have become standard and often acceptable excuses for the lackluster implementation of the law.

Existent.

We are already familiar with diverse like what's good and bad, there... the failure of Congress to allocate the required resources for the proper execution of environmental programs, a notoriously dysfunctional bureaucracy, budget, and conflicts with overriding economic interests.

This is not to say that because of poor implementation, nothing much has changed. Indeed we have witnessed in the last few years the side and use of leaded gasoline, the ban for almost exclusively all of the country, more stringent fuels in the country, more measures by federal to phasing over a transition effect of a natural and seasonal occurrence, as to dealing with the symptoms rather than the root causes who are concerned problems can be done.

Particularly in Metro Manila, air pollution continues to be a reaction for reasons that define the deteriorating of the humidity in... pollutants CAA is dealing with a social and environmental concern like air pollution. We identify three issues:

• **Uneven development.** The concentration of industrial and commercial activities in urban centers like Metro Manila, which brings about related problems of congestion and high density of vehicles, giving a limited number of roads, inevitably increases air pollution.

In Metro Manila, three million cars of the five million registered vehicles in the country contribute a lot to the high levels of pollutant sources in the air. And the number of vehicles in the metropolis continues to increase every year. Not to mention cities, still, a great majority of industries that cause pollution, except the Metro Manila metropolis, are located in the metropolis and adjoining provinces.

• **Flawed strategy of development.** The first reason is an absence of a comprehensive land use perspective on the industrial and under-developed nature of the Philippine economy.

In an economy that emphasizes dependence on foreign investments and export earnings, our environment, indeed our very future, loses ones, including high levels of air pollution, brought about by a flawed system. Either we have the natural resources to grow and develop economically in a sustainable manner, and environmentally sound way we do not control them. Instead, we let transnational corporations appropriate the resources for their profits.

Worse, the Philippines has become a willing host to dirty industries, and behind-the-drawn the jaded engines from First World countries and transnational corporations whose activities and products are otherwise banned or regulated in their countries of origin.

• **Ecological destruction.** Inextricably tied to the problem of air pollution is the destruction of our forests and watersheds. Studies show that in rain watersheds the environment cited studies. The issue of pollutants hovering over Metro Manila date like the Bay 2 Increase from page prior) could be seen nearly decades ago if only the unity of our forests and watersheds were maintained at their levels about 30 to 50 years ago.

Sadly, the carbon sink function of our forests has been all but gone with the destruction and continuing mismanagement of these resources.

In conclusion, managing air pollution is not a matter of fighting, opposing, and destroying industries in environmental perversion and management. It is successful in achieving our problems, we need to acknowledge that the solution lies in the larger Philippine social, economic and ecological decay.

The EMB report was misleading

By Roberto Q. Quiroz
Executive Director,
Center for Environmental
Concerns-Philippines

GOOD news are welcome but only if they are true. Sadly it does not seem to be so.

The public response to the misleading report of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) on the current state of the Metro Manila "marked economic drop in public's readiness over government declaration of a cleaner air" on account of the Clean Air Act (CAA). Thus, the EMB was forced to clarify its earlier outlandish report and give the exact parameters Makati to qualify as far from being cold for people and environment.

But to the air in Metro Manila ever going to be safe? Can we nonetheless say that improvements are being made, and it is just that the conditions still a way for another? There is no time.

What is true is that air pollution, along with other environmental ills in the country, is one of the most serious problems confronting the Philippines today. Unless we do something about it, we will be condemning ourselves and our children to a life of misery and premature death.

The EMB data said on Aug. 3 that pollution levels in Makati, Quezon City and Valenzuela had gone up and "therefore, unhealthful and could cause respiratory illnesses."

With just four automatic monitoring stations in Metro Manila (Hampton in Quezon City, Roxas Boulevard in Makati, Sta. Mesa in Manila and Valenzuela), the EMB can not just say the data from these stations will apply to the other 13 cities and municipalities in the metropolis.

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Sweeping generalizations from the EMB can be dangerous to one's health.

Mobilizing for cleaner air

By Julian D. Amador
Director, Environmental
Management Bureau-NCR

I SUPPORT unhappy and need to respond to the ugly realities of air pollution adversely affects the environment and human health. It is significantly linked to various respiratory illnesses that affect children and the elderly.

Recognizing this urgency, the Clean Air Act was enacted to serve as a comprehensive policy-planning tool for air quality management.

The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is in charge of monitoring the quality of air, issuing orders for violators, with the rest of the newly established network of ambient air quality monitoring stations. These monitoring stations are manual and automatic air pollutants and ozone.

There various sources of criteria pollutants such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, ozone, and PM 10 (particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter) provided by in the Clean Air Act, as well as several toxic pollutants such as benzene, arsenic and asbestos, and meteorological conditions such as wind speed and direction, temperature, radiation and humidity, which influence the behavior of pollutants in the air.

The EMB released the results of its monitoring for the June 21 to July 25. The results revealed that the criteria pollutants are within the guideline values. Take the case of the Ateneo Station, measurements for PM10 registered a reading of 70 micrograms per normal cubic meter (ug/Ncm) from July 1 to 11 and went down to 47 ug/Ncm from July 11 to 25. These readings is compared with the guideline value of 230 ug/Ncm for PM10, are still in acceptable levels provided for in the law. The same is true with all the other criteria pollutants as covered in the report.

These findings do not contradict the World Bank report because no data can based on the 2000 monitoring of (2002), and the EMB report is for June to July of this year.

The right assessment requires air quality monitoring stations are part of the Metro Manila Air Quality Improvement Sector Development Program, which is funded by the Asian Development Bank. These eight monitoring stations are located in the areas which include Ateneo, Roxas, Makati, and mixed particulates, soot, nitric and sulfur oxides.

The EMB is still seeking support from the national government to strengthen its capacity to implement the law and effectively monitor air quality. Its air quality management section lacks the personnel to attend to air quality monitoring concerns nationwide. There is also a need to purchase and install additional automated monitoring stations in different parts of the country. At present, the EMB operates a total of 13 manual air monitoring stations outside Metro Manila, which measure TSP, and only two automatic monitoring stations being operated in Cebu and Baguio in Oro City.

Part of the monitoring and enforcement activities of the EMB are being strengthened such as the designation of catchers. To date, the DENR-EMB has designated 12 catchers in Luzon, five Visayas and Mindanao. Catchers refer to natural and technical members or meteorological conditions and sources of pollution such as industries or vehicles, which affect the diffusion of pollutants in the atmosphere.

The EMB has also international and the system of calibration of ambient air monitoring equipment and time. Likewise, the installation of Continuous Emission Monitoring Systems (CEMS) is also gaining ground. As of 2003, eight power plants and ten power stations and coal were monitored installed using CEMS, which are equipment required under the Clean Air Act that measure the emissions of a particular industrial plant.

Other government agencies have made significant contributions to clean the air. The Department of Energy (DOE), implemented the phase-out of lead in gasoline in 2000, banned importation in January 2000 and lowered the sulfur content of industrial and automotive diesel as early as December of the same year.

Alternative fuels are also being promoted. The DOE is urging vehicle owners to use cost-method conversion (LPG) in addition and conversion research pilot to help them do so. Meanwhile, Executive Order No. 10 has directed all departments, bureaus and offices of government-owned and controlled corporations to incorporate the use of one percent of CNG in their diesel requirements. The use of CNG may result in almost 65 percent reduction in smoke emission.

The Department of Transportation and Communications through the Land Transportation Office started in 2003 smoke-emissions testing before vehicles could be registered, for a fee, per. The Department of Health is investigating the promotion of non-toxic refrigerants such as isobutane and isopentane alternatives to chemicals like the moratorium. Carolina No. 10 has directed all departments, bureaus and offices of government-owned and controlled corporations to incorporate the use of one percent of CNG in their diesel requirements. The use of CNG may result in almost 65 percent reduction in smoke emission.

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Ces Drilon boosts production of inspiring TV programs for young viewers

(Conclusion)

CES Drilon recently addressed a forum at the PICC on how to help the youth find its voice in the media. The concluding part of her remarks, as paraphrased from the original in Filipino:

Media should be helped by private companies. Specifically, advertisers should support the reportage of positive and inspiring stories.

For my part, as a broadcast professional, I believe that I should uphold and honor certain issues and principles like population management. How can we assure a good future for our youth if our population continues to explode?

I also advocate entrepreneurship. From a young age, Filipinos should be taught how to engage in business, to be employers instead of employees.

The ABS-CBN Foundation has a micro-finance arm, the Negosyo Foundation, which lends money to the poor, so they can earn from putting up small businesses.

As a broadcast journalist, I believe that we can do a lot if we all work together—media organizations, the private sector, especially the advertisers. We should all do what we can to overpopulation, produce and support more relevant TV programs.

This is because the audience are owned by the entire Filipino nation, and not by only a few powerful companies.

+++

After Ces' talk, the young people at the forum at the PICC shared that they were heartened by her upbeat views, her genuine concern built as a broadcast professional and mother, and her suggestions on how television can be of better service to the country's youth.

During the question-and-answer session that followed, it was stressed that the Philippines' swelling population has become exceedingly young, so it is of utmost importance to give our youth every opportunity to be seen and heard.

Yes, there are a lot of wrongdoings shown on the tube, but most of them stem from murders, gruesome and other relatively trivial and attention-grabbing concerns.

The young people at the forum shared that many young Filipinos are made of more substantial stuff, but their stories don't get told on TV—and the country as a whole is the poorer for it.

At the end of the long session, both speakers and the audience were motivated to do much more in giving the country's youth the opportunities they deserve.

With Ces Drilon and other responsible broadcasters helping them by showing the way to more effective projection on TV, the right young Filipino values can finally be heard on TV—loud and clear!

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

'Hip Hop Grooms'

"Hip-hop-Groove" gathers top hip hop and R & B stars and their biggest hits on CD. The limited cast includes Black Eyed Peas, Nelly, Lumidee, Ja Rule, Ashanti, R. Kelly, Jay Z, Beyonce, Mya, Aretha Timberlake, Alicia Keys, Ruben Studdard, Usher, Missy Elliott and Brian McKnight.

'Four Sisters'

ABS-CBN's new Korean soap opera, "Four Sisters," airs at 10 a.m. from Monday to Friday. The drama series is about Jin-Chae, and his four beautiful daughters.

Mi-Hwa takes care of her father after his wife dies, and gives up a chance at love with her father's protege. Tanya's ambition to inherit control of her father's hospital may prove to be her downfall. Hyo-in obsessed with starting a wealthy man, but falls for a penniless poet. And Nina discovers that she has a congenital heart defect.

Feedback

HELEN Jose Wink Mayo,caption of Binangonan, Rizal: "Congratulations, your column is getting better and better, and more interesting. I admire you for your objective TV and film reviews. Your writing just rots the sentiments of the majority.

"Two media personalities should be more responsible. The viewing public should be more critical and vigilant. TV production and programming executives should do their work well. And advertisers should support worthwhile and relevant shows."

Reality radio show

MONSTER Radio 92.3/93.1's smirking reality show, "Radio Idol," is now on its second level of competition. "The Challenge" is to get the match for the next RI device on the air, with listeners getting to participate in the judging process.

The ultimate "Radio Idol" will be proclaimed at RX's 21st anniversary celebration this September. "Radio Idol" airs weekdays at 7 p.m., with a replay the next morning at 7 a.m. Log on to www.mr921.com for the radio schedule of the "Idol-worthies."

'Pets in Style'

FESTIVAL Supermall is shaking presents the most talented and "fashionable" dogs in "Pets in Style," a fashion show and competition for owners at 3 p.m. on Aug. 8 at the mall's Carousel Court. Call 888-2114 or visit www.festivalsupermall.com.

RPN lets the laughter go on and on as it turns 44

By Jocelyn Valle, Entertainer

TALENT more than wise value, makes for a thoroughly entertaining show.

This was the thrust of RPN 9's anniversary concert, "Seriously Funny," held at the Aliw Theater Tuesday night. And a lot of talent was what the audience got.

The performers were Willie Nepomuceno, Andrew E., Ara Mina, April Boy Regino, Candy Pangilinan, Eugene Domingo, Giselle Sanchez, Yeo Gonzaga, Michiia Inland, Tuesday Vargas and Vaiden Caballing, with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO) and the Wakakirki Dancers.

Willie Nepomuceno came by opening the show as comedy king. Deftly, a former vaudeville performer who found stardom in movies and on television shows such as RPN's old gem, Sobe and Martha." Right away, the audience warmed up for an enjoyable evening.

Andrew E. jammed with the MPO with his instrument of choice—a customized typewriter placed on top of a white baby-grand piano. He then sang the ballroom hit "Stupid Love," still with the dazzled musicians and their conductor, Redel Colmenar.

Unlike in other concerts where the orchestra is relegated to the background, the MPO was part of the whole act of "Seriously Funny." Violinist Mercedes Laguna, in fact, stole the thunder from singer Yeo Gonzaga, whom he accompanied in her rendition of the Bianca Conesa original, "Rose."

Third-tier hosts cost the "Match" and ad libbing, Morphin was a thrilling comic finally discovered.

Eugene, which popularly known as Lucille in the humorous "Maricel" in another network, belted out "Someone to Watch Over Me" and managed to squeeze in a few punch lines. She thanked RPN for giving her early acting jobs on the shows "Buddy en, Sheik" and "Buddy and Sol."

Batikla, who used to work as a production assistant for RPN and even acts in movies shown on other channels, did a schizophrenic rendering of Vicente Cadena's "8 Divisoria Miles." How was that? Well, the vest printed proper in the show part of the song, but suddenly turned frantic as the tempo became faster.

When April Boy started his spiel with an ambit on Williams Hung and the orchestra started playing "The Bingo," it was obvious that he would be using the "musicians idol" reminder, but somehow the jokebase long still did the number his turn sexy.

Willie Nep proved he's the man, to mimic when he disappeared into several personas, from Tony to Goldie Hawn, Rapper, Jose Rangen, Charlie Chaplin, to Marlon Brando and Bernie—all in one number.

Tuesday made the audience forget that she sang the camera-ready hit, "Hindi dito Nakita," with her rendition of a caveman pop tune.

Ara Mina, however, failed in her attempt at a torch-singer, like maybe Liberace that needs to, and how the child of, Linda Brandall's "I've Got a Crush on You."

Yeo Gonzaga Caballing dedicated "Amelia gubilan" ("On with the Show"), an aria from "Pagliacci" (or "Clowns"), to all comedians. The MPO played a combination of music from various and funny films—"Elephant Walk," "Chinatown," "Dinner from the Pink Panther" and "Dance of Wine and Roses."

"Seriously Funny" was RPN's way of celebrating its 44th year anniversary. The concert was hoped to be the start of the Theaters and will be shown tonight at 9.

"Comedy is a staple in MPO," Gaye Reynoso, the network's chair and president, said in a speech. He cited as examples "John and Jose" and "Buddy and Sol."

"And that is our way of giving a tribute to the artists of comedy, especially those who've been part of RPN," he said. "For the laughter and the smile makes up to us now."

And although the likes of Nida Blanca, who led the skits show during the concert, are already gone, there is the group of "Seriously Funny" that carries on with the tradition. They sang Chaplin's anthem, "Smile," as a fitting closing to a two-hour show of pure entertainment. And that was what the audience had on their faces as they filed out of the venue.

SHOW TIME

Stars, prizes at Sta. Lucia East

STARS, prizes and surprises are waiting at Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall this month.

Watch the grand finals of the Search for Singing Stars 2004, where aspiring singers aged 5 to 25 compete for the top prize.

Catch the stars of Star Cinema's latest offering, "How Pure I Have You," led by Judy Lloyd Cruz and Bea Alonzo, as they hold a fans day and premiere tour on Aug. 8.

Get as much as 50 percent discounts on merchandise, mobile phones, home theater, dvds and more Aug. 13, 14 and 15. A P500 single purchase receipt automatically entitles a customer to a raffle coupon for the 12th anniversary giveaway promo for a chance to win a brand new car.

Watch the EuroPhil Orchestra bring Sa'in on Aug. 14. Then join the fun as McDonald's stages a Grand Fun Day for kids and kids at heart on Aug. 15.

Learn new things in science as Knowledge Channel brings back the Knowledge Caravan from Aug. 19 to 21.

Dance to the feathered's newest single at the sexy group performance on Aug. 27. Laugh till you drop to the standup funnyers Eliel Bonbonard & Bruno on Aug. 28.

Tune in to 98.5Hot stereo for Erik Santos will melt your heart with songs from his all-new cd, Aug. 29.

For details on the events, call the Ad & Promo Department at 661-3401 local 100.

Japanese programs go English

STARTING Aug. 2, all programs on Animax Asia, the first and only 24-hour Japanese animé channel in Asia which features the latest and most popular animé programming from Japan, will be broadcast in English.

Before Aug. 2, programs airing in Kids 1 hour from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. were dubbed in English while the rest of the programs were broadcast in their original Japanese language with English subtitles.

From time to time, Animax Asia will broadcast some programs in Japanese between 11 p.m. and midnight in the Super Hantas program bill. Viewers who still prefer to watch their favorite animé programs in Japanese will be able to do so if their cable operator offers a dual sound system.

Those who have grown with Japanese animé over the years can continue to enjoy watching their favorite programs in Japanese, while those who were recently introduced to this unique art form, or who prefer it without subtitles, can now enjoy it in English," said Betty Tsai, Animax Asia's vice president of programming and production.

Animax Asia is now available in the Philippines on Sky Cable 28, Destiny Cable 14 and Dream Satellite 77-98.

ALL FOR LITO

Young television director Lito Cayetano (fifth from left) has signed up with ABS-CBN where he will direct TV shows and movies. His mother and siblings were present at the contract signing (from left): Rep. Allan Cayetano, Sen. Pia Cayetano, Mrs. Sandra Cayetano, ABS-CBN senior vice president for TV production Cory Vidanes, ABS-CBN managing director for film productions Malou Santos, Lito's talent manager Ronnie Henares, and Sen. Roi Cayetano.

Across the NATION

Davao Chinoy traders welcome vigilantes

DAVAO CITY—A ranking official of the Filipino-Chinese business community here said they were elated over the continuing summary executions of suspected criminals in the city.

Uy Ching Siong, federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce regional director for Southern Mindanao, said the summary executions have created a good atmosphere for the business sector in the city.

"These killings are good for the city," Uy said during the inaugural meeting and torch-lighting ceremonies of the City Peace and Order Council at the Grand Wenceslao Hotel here on Thursday.

But he immediately said they were not encouraging the extrajudicial killings even as these boosted the confidence of the businessmen in the city.

Incentive to return

Uy said because criminality had been reduced in the city, some businessmen who already left the city due to security concerns have come back.

"The robberies and kidnappings have reduced... Many (Filipino-Chinese businessmen) are now sending back their children[to schools here and not to Singapore or Manila anymore," he said.

He also said members of the media may have spoken something against the summary executions, but in their hearts "they would agree" that these killings have turned the city into a safer place.

Supt. Eduardo Laza, Davao City Police Office director, on the other hand, said the crime rate in the city was reduced by 11 percent from June to July, He did not give exact figures.

Criminals get killed

"Our analysis is that these killings must be one of the reasons why (the) crime rate (was reduced), somehow, criminals are getting killed," Laza said.

Meanwhile, an alleged drug pusher, who would have become the so-called vigilante gunmen's 39th victim, survived an attempt on his life on Thursday evening.

Peter Pontestes, 41, of 153 Camus Street, was playing billiards by himself inside Annie's Place on the street, when he was shot. Armitage S. Albalate, PNP Ambulasan district

LIGHTING THE WAY Journalists who gathered in Iloilo City light up candles to protest the failure of authorities to solve slay murders of journalists. (See related story on Page 4A.)

Casinos planned as new focus of tourism campaign

BAGUIO CITY—The Department of Tourism said it can ramp up domestic tourism for the cities of Laoag, Angeles and Baguio by drawing Asian tourists to these cities' casino resorts. Their casinos.

Northern Mindanao, DOT Cordillera director, said their department's market analysis predicted the profitability of this "casino bridge," which has been a key factor of tourists coming from southern China, Taiwan and Korea.

These tourists travel regularly to Laoag's Fort Ilocandia Resort and Casino, she said.

Medrana said the DOT is mapping out direct flight routes to Laoag International Airport, from the Laoag International airport, the Honolulu Macapagal International Airport in Clark, and the San Fernando airstrip in Porto Pinto, in Dalton to accommodate these tourists.

But this "casino bridge" will depend on how Baguio proceeds with a pending casino project in Camp John Hay, she said.

Mayor's decision

Mayor Braulio Bautista had withdrawn all business permits that were issued to casino proponent Royal Highlands Leisure Corp.

Vanessa defended his action before Baguio Convention Development Authority (BCDA) president Florencio Padernal and the John Hay Management Corp. when he retreated in a July 26 letter that a city council resolution authorizing the casino retained an earlier resolution that set preconditions for Camp John Hay's development.

BCDA had been negotiating a management contract with Royal Highlands to manage the John Hay Casino, largely on the strength of Resolution 248 approved early this year.

Seven researchers of the previous administration panned the measure to overturn Presidential Decree (PD) issued in 1981, which declared that no casino could be put up inside Camp John Hay's "wholesome family-oriented entertainment and recreational zone."

Her Ilocandia draws as many as 353 tourists each day based on Laoag flight records, Medrana said.

Laoag Airport could accommodate as many as three to four daily flights from Laoag, carrying 60 to 80 regular visitors, she said.

More tourists

The DOT noted that East Asia dominated arrivals in March 2004 with 83,051 or a 63.5-percent share of the total volume. The department enumerated "a double-digit increase" in tourist arrivals from Taiwan, China, Hong Kong, Korea and Japan.

"The DOT's mandate is to draw foreign currency. It is also our policy statement to promote Baguio and other places," Medrana said earlier in a press forum here.

"But the DOT will respect how the community responds to the (John Hay) casino. If they are offended by it[the casino], and (BCDA decides) to withdraw it, then the government can target another Baguio attraction," she said.

The DOT market report also predicted that Baguio would stand out as "the wedding and honeymoon" center for East Asian visitors because of the city's weather. Vincent Cabreza and Dioscoro Cabuay, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

CONTINUING STRUGGLE
Protestors continue taking to the streets to rally against rising oil prices and to demand the scrapping of the oil deregulation law. Rallyists in Dumaguete City create noise to draw attention to the demands.

CPP spokesman calls for sustained protests vs rising fuel prices

LUZON CITY—Communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal called for the launching of mass protest actions to demand a rollback of oil prices and the scrapping of the oil deregulation law.

Rosal, the Communist Party of the Philippines spokesman, called the recent successive and successive oil price increases as "oppressive and unjust" and said that the 90 million people are "fully justified" in carrying out mass protest actions.

The CPP spokesman said it was imperative for the people to carry out mass protest actions to express their deep resentment and the parties' refusal to heed calls for rollback of prices and a return to deregulation of the oil industry.

"The unreasonable and unjust oil price hikes are hurting not only the most oppressed sectors but the middle classes as well," Rosal said. "The resistance cuts across broad sections of the people."

Since January, oil firms in the country have raised the prices of gasoline seven times for a cumulative total of between P4.70 and P4.85 a liter. The price of diesel have gone up six times for a total of P3.50 to P3.65 a liter.

On Thursday, the Independent Philippine Petroleum Companies, Inc. assistant has said that "more frequent price hikes had to ensure investors" within the month, a source.

Rosal said the giant oil monopolies earn hundreds of billions of dollars "by bleeding dry the Filipino people as well as other people who really earn due all that these oil companies exploit and sell around the world."

"The urgent task in the Philippine oil industry is that the deregulation law gave the foreign-owned oil companies all the freedom to exploit the situation and squeeze the people dry with ever-higher hike of prices," he said. Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Cebu bishop rejects 2 kids policy

ISO CERTIFICATION URGED

Napocor men told to brace for layoffs

CEBU CITY—"Life is a gift. I don't think we have to limit God's gift to us otherwise he will limit his gift to us."

This was the response of Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal on the proposal for families to limit their number of children to two.

Vidal said the Catholic Church is advocating only one means of birth control—the natural family planning method.

"The Church is always advising everybody so he always responsible, to follow responsible parenthood. But of course, it will always differ in the means and the Church is only advocating one means that is the natural family planning and that is the only thing," said Vidal.

He said poverty should not be connected with correpopulation because there were other causes.

One of them is greed, he said.

The cardinal said he would leave the matter to the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) to issue an official stand on the two child policy enacted by Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman.

He said the CBCP had issued on the past several pastoral on matters that may affect the welfare and standing of the Church.

Pastoral Board member Imelda Tapia, chairperson of the commission on health, said the bill violated the right of couples to determine the number of their children.

She said her committee was studying the bill so the board could make an official stand during its regular session on Monday.

Tapia agreed with Cardinal Vidal that the two-children policy in the bill was not the answer to the increasing problem of over population.

She said the government should instead focus on other programs for couples such as alternative livelihood projects to increase their families. Jolene Almendrala, PDI Visayas Bureau

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—National Transmission Corp. president Alan Ortiz has found a way out for unemployed employees, rather than retrenchment due to President Macapagal-Arroyo's streamlining policy. Get them ISO-certified.

The ISO (International Standards Organization) is the international reference for the quality standards that an authority set for any industry in the world.

"It assures (employees) of continued employment because they are part of a quality management system. Whole departments are working on ISO certification. It has become laborious. It's a good time," Ortiz told a press briefing here on Wednesday.

The National Power Corp. is scheduled to "lay 270" employees, most of whom were retired after the state-owned firm retrenched half of its original work force in 2003.

Ortiz said Napocor will follow Transco's ISO initiative.

Grid operator

He said Energy Secretary Vicente Perez had assured him that no similar restructuring would happen to Napocor, which is slated this for auction this year. Transco runs the national power grid that brings electricity to the provinces.

The government justified last year's Napocor retrenchment when it broke up the state power monopoly into Transco. It described Napocor now supervises all government-owned power plants) and it three power generation off-shoots (similar to the government set by the 2001 Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira).

"(The ISO certification) signals to would be investors that they don't need to restructure. They don't need to pare down employment numbers. This is a world class group, and we need to keep them intact to continue working efficiently," Ortiz said.

Ortiz received Transco's second ISO certification for management efficiency from a German audit firm on Wednesday on behalf of Transco's Shared IT unit (Sits Performs District).

"SUS, a German audit firm, declared Transco as ISO-9000 certified for "quality management services for business to business transactions."

Ortiz said the ISO already assures employees manning the diverse that they are indispensable to the private firm that would win the Transco bid this year.

He said Transco received its first ISO 9000 certification last year for Sits Diaries 1 unit, which operates in the Ilocos region.

1st certification

He said Napocor would eventually follow Transco's lead, given its regional concerns.

But Roque Corpuz, Transco chief operating officer and senior vice president, said the new ISO certification would not raise the sale value of Transco and any other state property that is up for auction.

Although the firm has to quarterly file rules, Corpuz said the ISO will magnify Transco's credibility to Australian, Singaporean and American firms, which are expected to vie for Transco's scheduled auction this year.

Ortiz said the government is on drag. A deadline for firms to indicate their interest is 3 months.

But he answered public impression that the government is selling the whole national power grid. He said the auction refers only to the management and operation of the grid, which will remain a government asset.

Ortiz's solution, however, did not impress the Napocor Employees Consolidated Union (Necu), one of three unions negotiating to keep some of their members in office.

The union want the government to sell the employees' concern along with the plants to contain "their level of efficiency," a union leader said.

Gener Flores, Necu president, said unless government shoulders its schedule for selling its power assets or suspends it all together, the ISO documentation will not save the jobs of many employees.

"It runs, the ISO documentation will take months, but Transco is scheduled to be sold in December, so in most of the Napocor power plants, PGN will not be privatized, even thirties of Transco and Napocor is below the deadline?" he added.

Blackout threat

In the same breath, Ortiz noted he's not a Manilow there which the state-owned power firm had dangled in June and July against Baguio and Misamis Oriental, over previously undetected power consumption.

Ortiz on Wednesday and Transco, the National Power Corp., the Benguet Electric Coop. creative (Benecos) and the Misamis Oriental Electric Cooperative (Moreco) had agreed to negotiate the unpaid balance down to amounts that would not affect the operations of each facility.

The debts were never reflected in Transco and Napocor bills due to a technical metering error. Both Transco and Napocor had admitted the mistake and had initiated corrective programs.

For Baguio, the "under billings" over Transco four years of undetected power that was valued at P53,304,377.26. Napocor had also demanded from Benecos P157 million for the non-metered consumption that was not detected by its own meters.

Benecos, the electric cooperative servicing Baguio and Benguet, got a court-issued restraining order against Transco's June 18 and July 4 disconnection notices.

Metering error

Moreco owes Transco P3.8 million for a similar metering error in the region.

But unlike Benecos, Moreco had agreed to pay back Transco without any questions, said Roque Corpuz. Transco senior vice president and chief operating officer.

"We're amenable in the most reasonable terms and payments. We can remedy it (P3. 28, 30 years, but we don't want to cut off power to Baguio. We need Baguio," Ortiz said.

The autonomous rules ends up winning the bid for running and operating the national power grid this year will abide by any debt restructuring agreement Transco will now enter with Benecos and Moreco, he said.

A Benecos official and Fr. Francisco Nilo, president of the center on rural electrification, and Edith Ramos, chief of the National Electrification Administration, mediated the talks between Gerardo Reyno, Benecos general manager, and Ortiz.

The source said Transco's position was "a complete turnaround, because, in the beginning, we offered them a solution, but they wanted their case on us." Mimilee Cadivase, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

UPLB parish priest to be ordained new bishop

By Rolando Peña
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LOS BAÑOS CITY—The parish priest of the University of the Philippines at Los Baños, Leopoldo who was appointed by Pope John Paul II as Auxiliary Bishop for the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Manila will be ordained bishop on August 19 at the Sta. Rita Cathedral here.

The ordination rite by bishop-elect Msgr. Bernardino Cortez, PP which starts at about 9 a.m. would be led by Pope John Paul II's representative to the Philippines Most Rev. Antonio Franco, D.D. to be assisted by the members of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) throughout the country.

There are about 118 metropolis, archbishops and bishops in the country according to the CBCP Directory to year 2002.

Hundreds of diocesan, religious priests and diocesan from the base diocese of Laguna, Archdiocese of Manila, Cubao, Batangas, Diocese of Lucena, Cainta of Quezon, Antipolo, Rizal, Sodalitas of Infanta and elsewhere are expected to close up for the elaborate Concelebrated Mass and ordination rituals.

After his ordination, Cortez would become the third member of the episcopacy who are alma members of the San Pablo Colegio or trace their roots in the province of Laguna.

The two other CBCP members ahead of him are Sta Bantayan Rolando Cardinal Vidal, 30 of Pila, Laguna town and Bishop Leo Drona, SDB, (SD Pasig) town.

The Union of Catholic Asian News (Ucan) quoted Cortez on court by as saying that there are priests who are "good organizers (U) and good preacher (s) but devote little time for individual daily prayers"

Comelec reverses self on Vizcaya mayoral row

By Melvin Gascon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO, Benguet—The Commission on Elections has reversed its earlier decision and recognized the son of the late Mayor Dionisio Dunuyo here as a substitute candidate in his place.

The ruling that recognized lawyer Philip Dunuyo as a substitute candidate to the 2nd ruling Bayan Dunuyo had been conducted in the local government and counting tumbleta here for the past months.

The Comelec's en banc resolution issued July 27 was sent to and the controversy here, which began when Dunuyo and Vice Mayor-elect Santiago Dickson both took their oaths as lawyers.

For three weeks since July 1, both Dunuyo and Dickson had jointly held the post that was left vacant following the death of Mayor Dunuyo on May 14.

The decision said it set aside "Comelec Resolution No. 7350, three being no valid provisions of (Dunuyo) . . . when he took his oath of office before the honorable chairman of the commission."

"Hence, it has no legal effect and shall be disregarded," the decision said.

In issuing the ruling, the commissioners considered the memorandum issued by lawyer Marlon Anthony Asuncion, provincial election officer, where he cited Comelec personnel affirmed that they were not aware of any substitution that took place between Dickson before the deadline on May 10, as claimed by Dunuyo.

Asuncion earlier asked the Comelec to give no clear 10 seat, before "a second look, in order to put to rest the rumors surrounding bringing Comelec into the intervention of the Comelec main office in declaring the existence of a valid substitution, contrary to the records in the local office."

Dickson said he was relieved that he would be able to assume the mayoral seat.

Since July 27, Dickson had been performing as acting mayor after the regional trial court issued a 20-day temporary restraining order against Dunuyo, in connection with a petition filed by Dickson.

Election Secretary Angelo Reyes also issued a directive to appointing Dickson as the officer in charge of the town, pending the resolution of three separate but related petitions before the Comelec, the RTC and the Supreme Court.

When contacted for comment, Dunuyo said that while he has yet to receive a copy of the Comelec's latest resolution, he would respect and abide by it.

"There is no such thing as 'no' It's all about luck). The way I look at it, it had been resolved with finality so, let's keep it that way," he said.

Maguindanao security guard finds out he's 'dead' in SSS records

COTABATO CITY—A security guard based in the municipality of Parang, Maguindanao and he got the shock of his life when he learned that he is already "dead" based on the records of the Social Security System.

Worse, his wife supposedly collected death benefits from the pension fund for the private employee.

Elmito Catinal, a 38-year-old security guard of Everson Plywood Company, said he came to know about his "death" when he went to the SSS Regional Office in Davao City to comply with a company requirements for employees to get new SSS identification cards.

But SSS employees, he said, were surprised because based on the regional office's records, he is officially dead.

Funeral benefits

In his file with the SSS, Catinal's wife Jenana had received funeral benefits amounting to P20,000 on Feb. 6, 22 days after his supposed death.

Based on the records, Jenana had supposedly filed death claims on Jan. 26.

Catinal said he immediately called his wife who was also surprised at the turn of events.

"How come I would claim death benefits from SSS when my husband is still alive and we are living together?" the stunned wife told radio station dxMD here on Friday.

The Catinals believe that somebody had reported the man dead to the SSS and that filed the claim using spurious documents.

Jenana swore the never filed any claim with the SSS as her authorized husband's supposed death is concerned.

The suspects that a syndicate, involving some people from the dependents on SSS operations, were behind the forgery.

Common occurrence

"That is not an isolated case, this is very common in our place," said Mercedes Vallera, an SSS Cotabato branch manager.

Balicanas said the case would only be solved once the Catinals file a complaint.

He said the National Bureau of Investigation could also help. Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

AFTER JENNY ROSALES, 3 FILIPINO KIDS MAKE IT BIG IN THE US

COMING OUT THIS TUESDAY, AUGUST 10

INQUIRER Mindanao
Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nina A. Alcantara

Projects change villagers' lives

By Aquilino Doria
Magindanawon

FOR YEARS, residents of a remote tribal village in Tapi town in South Cotabato had relied on unsafe shallow open wells for water.

There had also been instances when cholera outbreak claimed the lives of several children in the area due to poor sanitation and lack of potable water.

Helen Bendian, chair of the cooperative-run Lower Water Users' Association, said they submitted a project proposal to the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development (SPCPD) for the construction of a water system in the village way back in 1999. But the request was not acted upon, Bendian said.

Allen Bendian Yafi, a community infrastructure team leader of the Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) came to follow up the SPCPD-facilitated infrastructure and Rural (LEAD) project in the area, the residents asked for help. The GEM confirmed that such facility was a priority need and agreed to provide funds.

In February the construction of a P1.1 million water system began. About two months later, the more than 2,000 residents no longer had to walk for several kilometers just to fetch water for drinking and household purposes.

Pendian said the success of the project was minimal, but it had a big impact on the lives of tribal residents who had long been neglected by the government.

In Sitio Tuligpil, a riverside village in Datu Montawal town in Maguindanao, the construction of a boat landing facility also changed the lives of residents.

The project, with P 826,144, spurred trading and economic activities in the area, which served as an evacuation for Muslim civilians who had been displaced when the Moro rebel stronghold in the Buliok complex was raided by the military two years ago.

Vice Mayor Mohaimin Dax said the project "virtually transformed" the dusty and sleeping riverside village into a docking point for boats, drop-off point for goods, as well as center for traders coming here as far as the towns of Pikit, Kabacan, Carmen and Midsayap in North Cotabato, and the towns of Sr. Barahan, Pagalungan and Saliraya Buayan in Maguindanao.

Every day, at least 50 boats cruise the Rio Grande de Mindanao to transport goods and passengers at Tuligpil. Before the project was implemented, they said traders had difficulty in unloading their goods, especially during low tide.

Tuligpil's population of more than 4,000 started to swell as more people came and put up stores around the port. The facility is not only a major source of revenue for the village but also provides jobs for the locals.

The Lower water system and Tuligpil boat landing facility were just among the community-based infrastructure projects (CBPs) undertaken by the GEM under its infrastructure development program.

Yafi said the agency was planning to construct 300 CBPs and 20 medium-scale infrastructure projects (MSIP) worth $25 million over the next five years.

The construction of five MSIPs are also underway. They include a six-meter wide road and replacement of a 30-meter span concrete bridge in Sitio Sacadanan, the site of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front's fallen camp Abubakar.

Sultan Sayad Imam, a local Muslim leader, said the road and bridge would connect Datu Piang town to the Nasnan Ramon Highway. The project, worth around P 11.65 million, is a collaborative between Buhin and Mamang towns in Maguindanao.

Bingbong: A journey from behind bars to Congress

From page A1

know how to forget and forgive, you'll never get out," he said.

Becoming a congressman of the First District of Quezon City was, for him, not just vindication. It was more of a continuation of the "miracle" which started in prison the day when he said he met the Lord, until his release and bail.

Portrayed by the media as notorious, Cirodoguy made headlines in the 1990s for terrorizing people in his province of Bacoor that with guns and goons. It was then when authorities and courts days were being committed by men with high-powered firearms.

Cirodoguy's father, Floro, once a congressman, and his cousin, former Gov. Elmer Ginggoy, landed in one the position. Ginggoy was known to be the older Cirodoguy's chief security officer at the time.

A quarrel between Ginggoy and the younger Cirodoguy over control of the province's lucrative jueteng operations reportedly led to a falling out between Ginggoy and the Cirodoguys.

Ginggoy bagged all from talking about the Ginggoys, saying they were now on good terms.

Murder in the cathedral

The elder Cirodoguy was attending Mass when he was gunned down in the 1970s by cockroaches at least inside St. Paul's Cathedral in downtown Cagayan.

The events that followed the murder were swift. Two villages in Bacoor, Imus—Gen-Emi and Gen-Central—were razed by fire. Witnesses pointed to the young Cirodoguy as the culprit.

To this day, Cirodoguy insists he was framed by his father's enemies who allegedly paid talimanes to testify against him in order to take him out of the political scene because, at that time, he was about to enter politics.

At the end of the trial, Cirodoguy was meted out a "double life" sentence by court and sent over by New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa in 1979.

Promised pardon by the government, he withdrew his appeal before the Supreme Court. Then, in 1981, President Ferdinand Marcos gave him back his liberty.

While in jail, Cirodoguy said that out of curiosity he attended the meetings conducted by Catholic Charismatic groups.

One day, while listening to the Word of God, he said he found himself kneeled. Suddenly he wanted to serve Him.

A miracle came

"I said the Lord said, in that morning in prison, I made a covenant with Him that if He would give me a second chance to live, I will really serve Him," Cirodoguy said.

"Suddenly out of nowhere, in spite of the fact that we had no more money, no more political connections, no friends, a miracle came. I was given a pardon," he said.

Asked if he had repented for the crime he was accused of, Cirodoguy stressed he had not repented because "I was nothing to repent about." He insisted that it was a political case from the start.

"Yes, I was convicted but there were plenty of people who were convicted but were innocent. I was convicted only when I was a person," he said.

Without pause, Cirodoguy put up the Lord. Hail, Catholic Charismatic Renewal Ministries in March 1982 and went around sharing his faith with other people. The group grew and it now has nine million members in the country, in Hong Kong and in Taiwan.

Politicians can be God's tools

Cirodoguy, who is still the Hos Ch head servant, has allowed the family-owned Green Bubble Inn in Quezon province to be its headquarters for retreats.

Today, Cirodoguy becomes the person for praying over discerned people who come to him. He conducted spiritual seminars and prayer meetings, building his life up to encourage others to repent.

Seeing more people coming to his seminars to seek solutions to their problems, Cirodoguy thought it was time to venture in politics to run more—in order to help more.

"I told myself, 'if the Lord could use a doctor as an instrument to heal, why can't the Lord use a politician?'—because there's one less doctor from opposition and family—to help other people," he said.

Cirodoguy ran for senator in 2001 but lost. He ran for congressman in the same district he now represents and lost again in the next elections, but was for councilor, won and served two terms.

Politics is not wrong

In the last congressional elections, he defeated the daughter of Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo by 20,000 votes.

"Politics is not wrong per se if you use it for the people. But if you use it to aggrandize yourself and to promote your own personal interest, then that is the time that it becomes wrong," he said.

Asked why he was in Quezon City and not Bacoor, Cirodoguy said he eventually grew up and studied in Quezon City, although his father stayed most of the time in the province because of his work as a congressman.

He denied that politics had to run in the family.

Is his father's footsteps

"It depends on how you look at it," he said. "In our province, we were able to help many people. It was my father who represented the province [and] the local executive [system] for which, until now is benefiting many people," he said.

To Cirodoguy, following in the footsteps of his father was the will of God. He believes he could help more people more than in a congressman.

"The Bible says no authority unless authorize [by] God and, for the authority of Congress is there because of the will of God to enable to be used by the Lord as an instrument to help other people," he said.

With his legislative agenda, he said, all the ground work is the poor.

"If there was one thing in his life that he wanted to change, Cirodoguy said, it was his failure to help other people when this is that was still in power.

"I am helping the people now because it gives me joy," he said.

Cirodoguy said he no longer gets hurt when his political enemies bring up his past, as long passed during the last campaign.

'Wanted' streamers

He said his political rivals put up streamers carrying his picture with the words—"Wanted: Cirodoguy, terrorist, rapist." They also removed him despite that.

What Cirodoguy did was to have more of the streamers printed and hung in many places in his district, including churches. As a result, he said, people got used to his derogatory.

"People know me now. They elected me twice in councilor. You know, people will ensure not every dense who are hitting before the hill. It's all right if you change them with investigation with everything, but ... people will never like personal attacks," he said.

Everyone has own prison

Now that he is a congressman, Cirodoguy said, some his worthier friends have started to come back.

"But we know better now," he said.

Whatever the problems one faces, God will always be there to provide comfort and help, he said.

"If I was able to get out of prison, you can get out of their own prison cell," Cirodoguy said.

"Many Filipinos are now in prison, although not physically [as I once was], but they are in the prison of poverty. They are in prison cells of sickness, of broken relationships and non-direction in life," he said.

Two captive soldiers are grateful to NPA rebels

From page A1

the danger.

The ambush

Bolisloc and Manuelo have no doubt that the rebels who ambushed their 24-member Army patrol would have wiped them out if they had resisted and fought to the death. The two were captured during an encounter on March 1 in Barangay Tinambac, Camarines Sur in which one soldier died and six other troopers were wounded.

"Suddenly there was a big explosion and I was thrown several meters from where I was walking. I figured I must have hit some [explosive] for several hours. When I came to, the enemy was already closing around us," Bolisloc narrated in broken Filipino.

To Bolisloc, who commanded the 18th ambush team, and the two soldiers were left behind at the branch that exploded were on automatic rape with no charged and no the projectile have showed upwards.

What brought about the soldiers were the powerful shock waves of the detonated bomb, he said.

Bolisloc, who commanded the patrol, said it was very dark that night and he thought his team members were still holding their defensive positions as he could hear gunfire and grenades in front of him.

At first, he thought it was too late to withdraw as the enemy had them surrounded by 5 a.m.

Bolisloc said the hardest thing for him was to accept being a captive of the enemy. He was always thinking of escape until he was convinced that it was impossible to do so.

As Bonnel had no good a kind of to travel and passed roots on the two captives. He explained that the rebels moved from one place to another to elude pursuing soldiers. The forces of 1 and 2 of the Camarines Communist and the Command Area Agreement for the Respect of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (Carhrihl).

Ex-Bonnel revealed that of the two, Felebino was hard to deal with "ideologically" during the early months of captivity and would sometimes lecture his fellow captives on the tenets of communism.

He said Bolisloc is one true thought that he could influence his views on capitalism by promising a job with his uncle in Pasay City as soon as they are released. He is in charge for help in his escape plan.

But since all of the members of the rebel unit have no chance on the basis of their "ideological education," he says the bribe attempt was immediately reported to senior communist cadres.

Felebino denied the bribery attempt but he was humiliated in a punishment.

Behavior

Before the incident, Ex-Bonnel said that Felebino had displayed the following behavior: he paid constant attention to non-commissioned officers inside the 80th camp; he would suddenly stop meals; he would go for long periods without speaking and was often uncooperative.

In the more than five months that he has been spending Felebino and Hemelio, Bonnel said he more or less knew the real person behind the military façade.

He said the two were just people with ordinary human emotions and with unique personal characteristics.

"The two captives are quite sensitive. If you fail to anticipate or fulfill their hidden request, they become disheartened and if you give in to them, they become very enthusiastic," he said in Filipino.

Nocturnal's talk

Meanwhile, 24, enforced military operation (Nocturnal) 2003 officer he initiated first he had no chance of handing a good job. He did not go beyond the second term of a medical technology course at the Dr. Domingo College in Cotabato City. He was a nurse by any standard.

He also joined the soldiers to improve his village enrollment who had expressed her having attractive himself men to undress. Bolisloc said he first contacted radio amateur.

After he was accepted into the Army, Bolisloc said he was wearing his uniform only to find that his sweetheart had married.

After he had met Jomeljoy at the 34th, which, he would have married his fiance from Bohol-Isabel, Tipon, Camarines Sur on March 27, he said.

Fearing of losing job

The 176th of 12 siblings, Bolisloc's left his village in Agusan del Sur province when he was barely in his teens in 1993 and dreamed of helping his poor family who cultivated on farmland.

He said he initially worked as a houseboy. Later he became a waiter in Jollibee restaurant. He worked during the day and studied at night.

Now he thinks his future is uncertain. He does not know if the military would take him back after he is released.

The fear of losing his job is what prevents him from rebelling.

Felebino's story

All that Felebino, 30, wants to do is to recover the time he lost with his family since he is the breadwinner. Since he married, he thinks of nothing but his wife, Leah, and daughter, Jillcoh Nicole, 2, whom he last saw in Christmas.

Felebino finished political science and was an officer of the Reserve Officer Training Course at the Bukidnon State College in 1994.

He went to Manila and worked with the Bureau of Fisheries Security Agency in 1997.

He soon met Leah Vivar, a resident of the Pintuhinan ng Malsat, and the couple married on Aug. 30, 2001.

He joined military service in November 2000 and was promoted to lieutenant last year.

Felebino has promised himself he would order up for volunteer functionary and decide courage he had to a family man. He reserves for his wife and mother baby this in December.

He is ready to accept the consequences of defeat in battle and eventual capture. But he is happy to be alive and "totally" innocent his family he said.

Rebel gains

Ex-Bonnel believes that the political gains of holding the four Army soldiers appropriate the requirement of full legality, consistency and authority of a led, kgroup state.

He said Felebino and Hemelio, being combatants, were declared POWs upon capture, with full guarantees of the international rules on humane treatment of captives under the Geneva Conventions and the Carhrihl.

But for safe-the two soldiers already have been declared POWs by the ranked them by considering with the required behavior and conduct and their cooperation with the combatant force.

Freedom of expression

Ex-Bonnel said they deliberately avoided playing the captive soldiers as situational that would expose the them to standard escaping in order to avoid loss of lives.

He said the two were only restrained and controlled in their movements but not their freedom of expression.

He claimed they were even encouraged to discuss any one of the captives' indoctrination for the two captives to eat their best friends and sweeten her for better grooming.

"I will only cut my hair and shave my beard and moustache on the day that I am released," the Army officer told the captors.

Full disclosure

He added he would also make a full disclosure of what was on his mind since his capture when he is released.

Describing general ideological meetings, Felebino and Hemelio were allowed to freely argue and participate in discussions of the documents being studied, Bonnel said.

The two soldiers continued that they were lectured on the provisions of Carhrihl to adopt them on the principles of treating POWs.

Ex-Bonnel claimed that the communist rebels argue the use of torture as the only means to obtain an information from intransigent captives, an explore such circles.

He said they went through the painstaking process of persuading Felebino and Hemelio to free them that the humane treatment was not for show but for real, and was in compliance with the established rules and policies of the Communist Party and international institutions.

But the two captive soldiers were touched that if they attempted to escape the rebels would not hesitate to shoot them dead.

Letter of appeal

Felebino and Hemelio were encouraged to make contact with their loved ones and to write an appeal to President Macapagal-Arroyo to harbor the government's sincerity with the concerns for their safe release.

Ex-Bonnel said Felebino at first refused to submit the letter of appeal to the President, fearing that it would be used by the rebels as propaganda against the government.

But with the continuing delay of their release, Felebino became convinced of its necessity.

Officials of Felebino and Hemelio are reluctant to the representation of the International Red Cross and the government peace negotiating panel, the prices with no lives would have also caused to exist.

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(For convenience, security and safety.)

Multi-Line
Simply Creative

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(A roof to match the beauty of your garden flowers)

Multi-Line
Simply Creative

Beware of the 'Marcos monument to folly'

Turn to page A-3

Secretary Ulson Perez "to distance the public from the problem."

"That is why Energy Secretary Perez, as an eminent banker, has very clearly stated that the **conversion will not take place until most of the** generating plants have been disposed of," Arroyo said. "By that time, GC-into will remember the promise and the propaganda."

Arroyo also questioned the funding for such an ambitious undertaking.

"Where will we get the money? Borrow again? Fact is . . . it will turn out to be so prohibitive that it would be cheaper to construct a new one than to refit it," he said.

Reservations

Several businessmen welcomed Mr Arroyo's **plan but only if the one** of converting the long idle plant would be significantly lower than building a **new plant that would use natural gas.**

Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry executive vice president Donald Dee said the should have been done a long time ago because the government has spent heavily on the project.

Federation of Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce executive vice president Fausto Chua said that, with the sharp rise in petroleum prices, it might be cost-effective to open the plant now and convert it into a gas-fired project.

Philippines Inc. chair Miguel Varela said that converting the SNPP would at least put to good use an idle plant that had not benefited anyone, as far, despite all the money that had been sunk into it.

Federation of Philippine Industries pres-

NEVER BEEN USED control panel that had been gathering dust and dirt since 1984.

LAST WE KNEW: The costs of a useless nuclear plant

By Abigail L. Ho

FERDINAND Marcos' government borrowed $500 million from a number of foreign banks to the late 1970s to construct the construction of the $2B SNP Bataan Nuclear Power Plant.

During its interest charges, the total amount of the loans has ballooned to more than $2 billion.

Over the coming years, Filipino taxpayers will still have to endure the burden of some $80.6 million more in debt repayment, administration fees, freight forwarding and other charges.

This way the government is scheduled to **pay $26.2 million in payments to two Japanese,** one Swiss and two American banks, he said.

"If what we will pay for the useless plant's debt (are) was well be distributed among poor households as a power charge subsidy instead, we can provide 1500 watts of electricity per month to 594,440 homes for a year," he said.

Built in 1984, the nuclear plant has not produced a single watt of electricity.

Dubbed as "monument to folly" by critics, the plant has since been plagued by safety issues, including fears that it sits on an earthquake fault line.

Former Atomic Energy Commission chair Jesus Azcuna said that, while the conversion of the Bataan plant was unfeasible, the government must make sure that converting it into a natural gas facility would be financially viable or else the government would only be throwing good money after bad.

Buy back Petron

Amakpanin Rep. Crispin Beltran said yesterday that instead of reviving the SNPP, the government should buy back the oil refinery Petron to develop a national oil industry.

Beltran said Mr Arroyo's plan was a "circuitous, complicated and a roundabout way" of solving the power crisis.

"The government should funnel its resources towards buying back Petron and making its claim over the oil resources that are being discovered and taken over by the US and other foreign corporations for drilling and mining concessions," Beltran said in a statement.

The proposal to nationalize Petron had also been raised by former President Fidel Ramos, but Malacañang rejected the proposal, saying the government was "unavailable" with its 40 percent stake in the oil firm.

Perez had said the government would keep its stake in Petron to have an "influence in the oil market."

The oil firm was privatized in the 1990s. Kuwait-Petron acquired a 40 percent share, while the Philippine government maintained another 40 percent, and 20 percent was listed in the stock exchange.

Beltran said buying back Petron "was an easy and ready-made solution."

"All it takes is for the government to assert its political will," he said.

First things first

The conversion of the SNPP into a gas-fired project was part of an emergency energy independence agenda announced by Mr Arroyo on Thursday.

The agenda calls for turning inactive power facilities into gas-fuelled plants in 2005 to ensure additional power capacity for the next several years.

The winning bidder in the failed second electrification program of the National Electrification Administration (NEA) urged the nation's leaders yesterday to first address the lack of infrastructure to deliver electricity to the countryside.

Severin Industries, the lowest complying bidder in the failed P9-M project, lamented in a statement that up to now NEA officials had refused to award a $12 million contract for the purchase of 60,027 wood poles and crossarms.

The foreign-funded project was supposed to provide electricity to the remotest areas in the countryside, but as in the case of other government buildings, it was doled by political maneuvering and the interests of some government officials and legislators, said Severin.

The project was first bidded out in 2000, but although fully funded by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, it did not push through.

Petition in court

Severin has sought recourse in the courts through a petition compelling NEA and energy officials to honor the contract. The trial on the merits of the case is being heard by a Manila court.

Severin said it could not even seek an audience with Mr Arroyo who, it said, had the power to order NEA officials to push through with the project.

Apples and oranges

As far as Bataan Rep. Antonino Roman is concerned, the controversy over the SNPP was issues of apples and oranges.

Roman said that the SNPP and a gas-fired power generation facility were two completely different things, and the conversion of the Bataan plant was an idea that residents of Morong, Bataan, were "very cautious" about.

"The SNPP was designed as a nuclear plant. There has to be technical studies if the conversion is feasible," Roman told the Inquirer.

"They're like an apple and an orange. If it's economically feasible, then the national government will have to decide how much of the SNPP's facilities will be used," he said.

Series of protests

In the 1990s, Morong residents and environmental groups launched a series of protests to have the Marcos government re-establish the project. It was during the term of former President Corazon Aquino that the demand was heeded.

Long-term solutions

Bataan Gov. Enrique Garcia, on the other hand, said that converting the Bataan plant to a gas-fired plant would mean the SNPP's immediate retirement.

But the long-term solution to the power crisis is to revamp the old Irrigation law, said Garcia. With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Arnold gets flak for 'girlie men' remark

Turn to page A-6

special interests.

Some Democrats grumbled that the remark was sexist and homophobic. The governor didn't apologize.

"People call me 'girlie man' when I sit at the hairdressing salon and get my hair, you know, blown or get my 'Hollywoodie' polished," Schwarzenegger told Leno.

"Who cares! They feel sensitive. I think maybe the word has to, I don't know," he added with a chuckle.

From SNL skit

The governor felt of the "girlie men" remark from an old "Saturday Night Live" skit in which two pompous neighbors repeatedly use it to needle those who don't meet their standards of physical perfection.

Schwarzenegger's "Tonight Show" appearance marked the first time it was necessary of his surprise entry into last year's historic recall election. It was on Aug. 6, 2003, that he startled even some of his own advisers by announcing on Leno's stage door he would be. came a candidate for governor.

There was no discussion announcement Friday. When asked by Leno if he would seek re-election, Schwarzenegger said to wait until next year.

Speech at Republican convention

Schwarzenegger, considered a political moderate, is scheduled to deliver a prime-time speech at the Republican National Convention in New York City, but that didn't stop him from lamenting the many partisan rose on the presidential campaign trail.

"It's very divisive," he said. "It's really sad in a way ... I think the country suffers because of it, rather than bringing people together and, you know, being more civil."

Schwarzenegger also let Leno in on one secret. He can say "California" like everyone else.

California, here it comes

The governor, who was born and raised in Austria, has long pronounced his adopted state's name with a hard "K" and a lilt: "Kah-li-fornia," according to the phonetic description on a whimsical state billboard recently put up in several cities.

But prodded by Leno, Schwarzenegger pronounced California with only a trace of an accent.

"I think you're from France and you educate American thing is phony," Leno said.

Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor Margie Quiroz-Rigales

'James' of all trades, master of all

JAMES' idea of pursuing a hobby is to turn it into a profitable venture.

By Amy R. Remo

TO SIMPLY call Jesus Payet-Concepcion a jack of all trades would not do justice to a man whose diverse interests range from IT to cooking.

At 38, Concepcion heads several companies in various sectors—Days Hotel Philippines, a hotel chain; Interim Temp Hotel; Home Exclusive Corp., a car rental firm; Infoliant Financial Holdings, a marketing concern; an e-commerce firm; a professional; Inspector Worldwide Media, a publishing house; Stadium Club Entertainment; and Ingenio and if I'm boring.

During the past year, he was able to turn three companies around.

On call 24/7 wherever in the world he may be, Concepcion says his entrepreneurial spirit was instilled in him early on, thanks to his parents during his college days.

Concepcion is the son of the late Reynaldo "Nene" Concepcion—brother of tycoon Jose Concepcion—and Jeanne Payet, daughter of the late Sen. Gil Puyat and president of Luzon Stock Exchange Inc.

Despite his lineage, Concepcion says they didn't have it easy when it came to money.

"Back in college, my parents would give us money enough for our materials, to be like everyone else," says Concepcion. "So I used to do everything under the sun—as a photographer, tutor, fitness trainer to supplement my P120/week allowance."

A graduate of BS Business Economics at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Concepcion had worked for multinationals in and outside the country before joining his father in running the family businesses.

He came back from Canada in 1990 and managed Interim Construction, which the latter founded more than a decade ago. Sometime around offering rooms on a daily rate aside from the standard weekly and monthly rates.

"That was my first exposure to the hospitality industry," says Concepcion.

In 1998, Concepcion left again for the US, where he obtained his master's degree in Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston.

Two and a half years later, Concepcion came back to manage the Aeron Franchise Group, with his brother, Jesse.

The Aeron Franchise Group is the umbrella organization of Days Hotel, master franchisee of Mediator Burger, Pizza Inn, Retro and Creamy Ice, among others.

Despite being the third in a brood of four and younger among the three boys, Concepcion has the biggest responsibilities in most of the companies owned by the family.

"In terms of leadership, we're different from other families because it is not based on age but on qualifications," says Concepcion.

Concepcion, however, admits that they have equal holdings in the companies of their parents, except for Days Hotel, of which he owns majority.

"My siblings are very good businessmen. In their own right...they have a lot of things I don't have. But personality and experience-wise, I've had the most varied experience," says Concepcion.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP is in Concepcion's blood.

Concepcion admits that he and his late father would look forward to the Sir Set franchises they could bring back to the Philippines.

"Franchising a name because it's quick education. It comes with trained teams that's easier to push," says Concepcion. "Most of all, it has international linkages, which is this quickly globalizing world, is very important."

Among those they had brought in the country and became successful is the Days Inns of America, which became the Days Hotel Philippines.

After 14 years in the Philippines, Days Inn five hotels located in Eliod in, Cebu, Iloilo, Tagaytay City, Batangas City and Subic.

Joint ventures

Further, we need to build completely new hotels. But what we're doing now is we're entering into joint ventures with existing hotel owners, where hotels are not doing well anymore," says Concepcion.

This Days Hotel concept, according to him, is unique because they have old hotels with banks and owners.

"We're helping people, whose hotels are going to be foreclosed," says Concepcion.

Concepcion says they keep the property, renovate and then manage it for either the banks or hotel owners, who will get a certain percentage from the gross rents.

"I don't own anything. It's none of the property, a manager, more commercial because it'll be more complicated if we buy the property," says Concepcion.

Concepcion adds that some of the hotel owners are reluctant to sell because they feel attached to their property.

According to Concepcion, the cost of renovating the property depends on the size of the hotel, its condition or how many rooms it has. Renovating a hotel with about 120 rooms usually costs P35 million to P50 million.

"We can Days Hotel like a boutique operation, very tight and we work quickly," says Concepcion.

It has an internal school for its staff, aimed to educate them on what Days Hotel has learned about the hotel culture after 30 years in the country.

The Days Hotel style of management is also unique in it hires the best of servers, technology and innovation with the heart in serious hospitality and duties.

In 1997, Days Hotel in Batangas City was the International Hotel of the Year award for the whole Days Inn system of over 2,000 hotels.

Such an atmosphere would be ripped for Filipino domestic travelers, whether in target market.

It is their way, according to Concepcion, to help ease the pain of unemployment among Filipinos by encouraging them to travel around the country.

Days Hotel also provides opportunities for those in the industry through its Old restaurant. Concepcion chose the dishes himself.

(MORE)

"We are all responsible in the progress of our country. We each have a contribution to make. Let us not give-up in our efforts to achieve the nation we envision."

— Dexter Tarucan-Tampalan
President and CEO,
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REGIONAL CENTENNIAL AWARDEE

Revenue Region No.7
Bureau of Internal Revenue
Regional Centennial Celebration
"Sa Sandaang Taong Sikad
BIR Kaagapay sa Pag-unlad"

The Bureau of Internal Revenue, Region No. 7 held their Regional Centennial Celebration last July 27, 2004 at SM Quadrangle, Cebu City. Standing from left, Nestor F. Valera, Regional Director, BIR; Dexter T. Tampalan, President and CEO, First Quadrant Philippines Inc.; Hon. Guillermo L. Parayno, Jr., Commissioner of Internal Revenue; and Dr. Marina C. De Guzman, Assistant Regional Director.

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everywhere making a difference in the lives of many

A tale of a mining family in the north

By Frank Cimatu
PhilStar Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The American Chamber of Commerce estimates that the Philippines is sitting on some P600 billion worth of iron and nickel.

The mining industry, if properly tapped, could provide an additional P4 billion to P5 billion a year in export revenues, at least P2 billion in new private sector investments, thousands of new jobs, economic development in the countryside, and P4.5 billion to P6 billion in tax revenues for the government.

All of these could translate to an additional 2 percentage point of GDP growth.

But the industry still faces great challenges ahead to recover its glory as one of the top three copper and nickel producers in the country.

Fifteen new operators of Philippine mining, three major companies, all located in Benguet, inevitably come to this fact.

Benguet Corp., the Benguet Corp. which pioneered modern mining in 1903 and was considered for decades as the fourth biggest in Southeast Asia; Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co., which started in 1936, and Philex Mining Corp., in 1954, all of which continue to be industry pioneers today.

In the belts of Lepanto and Philex are two sons of a self-employed mining engineer who, during the last 25 of which were with Benguet Corp.

A daughter is also involved with Benguet Corp. in a new field of mining: iron ore.

Here is the story of the Villaluz trio of mining.

Villaluz patriarch

Their father, Ernesto Villaluz Sr., or Ernie, as he was called by friends and colleagues because of the hardships he inflicted upon his children by making the last 25 of which were with Benguet Corp.

Ernie Jr. remembered their father's constant reminder "to be humble and to consider all others." The siblings learned from their mother, Elisabeth Isabel Soares, and interacted with families of any economic class to look like the ancient children going to school.

In 1955, Ernie joined Benguet Consolidated Mining Co., later known as Benguet Corp., which was then the biggest gold mine in the country.

He started as a mine foreman, worked up the ladder until his death in 1986.

In 1968, during the so-called "Golden Philippines Era" the mines," Ernie became the then Philippine vice president and general manager of the Baguio district of the previously then-iron-owned Benguet Corp.

"When papa died in December 1986, there were no more people from the mining corporation who attended his funeral. He was much loved by his miners and workers," Augusto says.

Benguet Corp. has named him by naming a newly constructed building in Baguio as the Villaluz Center, which stands to this day.

Siblings

Taking after his father, Ernie Jr. is seen by his siblings as hard-working, responsible, thoughtful and caring.

"Kuya (as he is known to his siblings) is very helpful to us and we look up to him with respect and admiration. Being the eldest, he was given big responsibilities at a young age and was our mother's right hand," says Eddie.

Ernie Jr. initially took up mechanical engineering and later shifted to mining engineering at the University of the Philippines where he graduated in 1963.

He worked in five mining companies involved all over the country in various capacities, utilizing various mining methods and practices.

Starting as a rock engineer at Marinduque Mining's Bagacay Mines, he moved to other engineering for eight years. He went back to mine operations in 1972 as assistant resident manager of Western Minoro, where they started a new mine from base ground in preparation of the open-pit, conventional and metallurgical of the copper mill.

He manned the gold operations of Apex Mining Co. in Davao del Norte where he rose to executive vice president within 15 years.

He was appointed Benguet's gold mining operations with same skill and unlimited open pit operation. He was Benguet's executive vice president for five years.

In 1993, he was president and later vice chief of Benguet Nickel Mines until his retirement in 2001. He was director of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines for 13 years.

Retired from retirement, he is now the vice president and chief operating officer of Philex Mining Corp. The appointment took effect on Aug. 1.

Ernie Jr. is married to Lolita Cabili-Villaluz. The couple has three children and three grandchildren.

To Ernie Jr., it is fulfilling at his career of a mining professional to participate in opening up new mines that generate employment in the provinces and foreign exchange for the country.

His sister Abbie finished BS Commerce, major in accounting, at St. Theresa's College in 1963. In the same year, she married Jose Mariano and is a proud mother of five and grandmother to seven.

Abbie's tourism career spans 30 years with many senior positions at the Department of Tourism, the World Tourism Organization, a United Nations specialized agency based in Madrid, Spain, and in human resource administration.

A significant achievement was her recognition by the WTO for her role in the 1989 Manila Declaration on World Tourism.

She moved to the private tourism sector as managing director of Asia Pacific Projects Inc., a major tourism consultancy company, where she was involved in tourism planning, development and marketing.

Abbie was working in Philippine Resorts Consultant in 2003 when she was tapped to be "the first and only mining woman" to join the Philippines.

Tourist attraction

The tourist attraction has since been integrated in the Benguet Mines Tourism Village, with an

VILLALUZ FAMILY: Eternal family portrait: Agustus, Diana, Ernesto Sr., Aida Sr., Ernesto Jr., Fernando (standing from left), Aida Jr., Eddie, Lolita (seated), Augusto (front).

(From left) ERNESTO Jr., Eddie, Augusto Villaluz

ERNESTO Villaluz Sr.

undergo sand mine tour in a refurbished Mesa Cement, future to-be-mine in a former forest reserve, a tailings pond converted into a man-made lake and the Villaluz Center-Complex for accommodation and conference.

"My dad with Benguet Corp. forges on my son named affinity to the mines when I grew up and my involvement in mining matters as a pioneering business product in the country. My eldest is to mine the business in detail, coping and pioneering mining heritage tourism, mainly to what has been created in mining areas in the former mines, Canada, and Australia," says Eddie.

The third Villaluz plans to be in the mining industry to augment or face.

Among his brothers and sisters, Ernie remembers his father most—good sense of humor, loving wife, family man and good empathy with his miners.

He is a hands-on executive with a keen sensitivity to underground miner operations.

"When I was young, I remember how my father cycles into home from work. He would put his mining hard hat with a lamp in it and carry me on his shoulders. That must have enthused me," Ernie recalled. Like his father, Ernie Jr. finished mining engineering in Manila in 1971.

He worked his way up from a mine supervisor position to executive mining companies. He started as metallurgical laboratory aide at Sta. Rosa Mining Co., and mining engineer-trainee at Benguet Corp.'s Acupan mines as well as Wahig.

At the Baguio Gold's Sto. Nino Mines, he was first mine chief engineer to mine superintendent. He built underground coal open pit operations.

In 1981, he joined Lepanto as senior mining engineer and was to senior vice president and executive manager of the Mankayan Bagulay operations in Bontoc, Benguet, and senior vice president of Manila Mining Corp.

His mining experience has been marked with his ability for mine development and scheduling, mine of mining businesses to profitability.

He retired from Lepanto in 2000 and was recalled in 2003 to resume the same position. He was also elected as member of the board of directors of the Manila Mining Corp.

"If I thought only of myself, I would not have come back. I didn't need the job. My children and their families. Helping others is my father's legacy to us," Gus tells the brothers.

In Lepanto, his wife, Thelma Bendiz, has initiated several community projects in the areas of cultural upliftment, assistance to children with physical disabilities and vocational training.

Every Christmas, special events are held by all the miners' relations. Gus, Thelma and their four children love the Mankayan and nearby communities.

Asked about the mother lode to success, the Villaluz siblings' incessantly recalled their parents' unconditional love for each other to everything they do.

All are multi-awarded professionals in their field. Ernie Jr. and Gus were also recognized as outstanding alumni of their respective schools.

The siblings also believe in the power of prayer.

"We prayed the Rosary every night with a strength hand, and if one of us turned on the bed, we would wake up to repeat the five decades," they say.

In addition to these, they relies to adopted in them the values of hard work, perseverance, integrity and compassion.

Ernie Jr. has had all his children graduate their duty and each other good thing each had done to his neighbor.

A father's love

"If father's love knows no bounds," Ernie Jr. says.

He knows of what he was saying.

In October 1980, their parents embarked on a round the world trip on the Benguet Corp.'s retired Fantasy, metropolitan performance before his 60th birthday and retirement in February 1981.

On their last stopover before their return to Manila, Ernie suffered a massive heart attack and died in his wife's hotel in Cebu. T, 1986.

In the meantime, Ernie Jr. and other mines executives of Apex Mines were supposed to visit the mines in Davao del Norte and Surigao, after a regional conference. But, I was the first of the day.

Because of his father's critical condition, Ernie Jr. decided not to join the Apex Mines trip and flew to Manila instead.

On that day, the plane with the Apex Mines executives exploded in Mt. Malindang in Lagaan and there were no survivors.

"My father gave his life that I would be saved," they'll say it.

Ernie says he very happy today to see that his mining legacy not only lives on but has come full circle: two of his sons, Ernie Jr. and Augusto, have followed his footsteps as mining executives of the two biggest operating mines in the country today, Philex and Lepanto, and is daughter, Aida, is involved in mining tourism, in his hometown Benguet Corp.

'James' . . .

From page B1

Among Olli's specialties are Korean foods, bar, shopping bags, Islamic and special and desserts.

Convergence is especially proud of his chief baker, which he claims to be the first of its kind in the country.

Chestnut, according to Convergence, does not smell sweet it doesn't contain fat or oil.

"But we have found a way to smell it. It's an excited recipe. We serve it with bread and butter, it is delicious," gushed Convergence.

Convergence aims to put up more Days Hotels in Boracay, Southern Tagalog, Baguio and Mindanao by next year.

Despite his many involvements, Convergence likes to spend time with his wife, Ingrid Lopez, and their kids, Ethereum, 7, who would drill out with a game of golf or basketball.

Convergence's aims of pursuing a hobby is opening a business catering to their patrons. His passion for cooking and fast cuisine grew from Tagaytay, a restaurant which he, Mechelle Jones, Alfredo Mollar and Isidro Isrod.

For his interest in writing and photography he set up StopOver, a lifestyle travel magazine, recognized as the first Travel magazine by several consumer choice awards.

He also recently opened a pawnbroker called Home Time, which is a franchise of a US school.

"These other businesses keep my stress down, which I'm here on the job—in a basic sense," Convergence tells the business.

Two entrepreneurs dip hands into a bowl

ERNIE Lee

SHERYL Zamora

THERE'S business sense in taking on a younger look. More companies are now hiring can be entrepreneurs who, 30 or 20-years ago, would be considered too young to get involved or be called words of wisdom and experience.

These "youngbloods" share the same passion, eyesight and business acumen that their predecessors have, some of whom are their own parents or grandparents. But these young entrepreneurs are not afraid to try out new things. They have acquired the best education locally or abroad, they have ongoing family economic or business models and have access to the latest technology.

The stories of these young and driven entrepreneurs fit the profile of the new franchisees of Super Bowl of Chinese—20-year old Sheryl T. Gonzales and 35-year old Benjamin "Ben" Lee Sherwood. Through the family-owned Chinese restaurant chain's franchising division, acquired the Super Bowl of China franchise in Eastwood City mall, 2 in Libis, Ben's Cottage Bowl Ready Inc., meanwhile, owns the Super Bowl franchise in SM Southmall which is also serving opportunities.

Both Sheryl and Ben come from business-minded families. Sheryl's family is engaged in information communication technology retailing, pool control and food service. Ben comes from a family engaged in various businesses. He had previously worked as a geodetic engineer but preferred to build his own business and is now engaged in food, IT and computers and cooling systems.

A graduate of Integrated Marketing Communication at the University of Asia and the Pacific, Sheryl's sweet personality does not match the tough love she receives from her father in business talk and experience pose otherwise. She manages the 2-store Super Bowl branch co-financed together with friend and former schoolmate, Janelle Salapantan who is the store's general manager.

Ben was a graduate of Economics Honors and Management at the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. He hiked Super Bowl branch to SM Fairview occupies 168 square meters and can seat 110 guests. Being a Chinese himself, the particular tradition to dine in his heart, not to mention his palate.

"Ben may be young, but Ben and Ben are smart investors. They thoroughly study a business concept first to assess its feasibility before considering a venture. Both the risks are considered before the profile of the people whom they work with.

"When Super Bowl started entering its franchise, we saw it as a good opportunity because they offer a time-proven formula—the combination of excellent food and service," Sheryl said. "And the good thing about it is it has a wide market base. If we can get just one percent of the foot traffic in SM Fairview, Ben we'll be very happy," explains Ben. He enjoys a good business relationship with Sheryl's family, both having similar sweetheart on market participation.

Richmond Tang is the managing director of big Buddha Restaurant Inc. (BRI), the parent company of Super Bowl of China. "I saw in Ben and Sheryl the entrepreneurial spirit and the determination to succeed," Tang narrates.

Having away from the distant business dominance of the older days, Sheryl and Ben strive to make a difference in the lives of others. "We want to develop people's skills. If we grow, we grow with them so grow with us," says Ben.

Living up to the expectations of BRI as well as patrons of Super Bowl of Chinese is one of the many challenges facing the young franchisees.

"Ben's passion for service and delivery not only in terms of sales but also to maintain the image that made Super Bowl popular," Janelle explains. For Ben, maintaining the service thrust of the restaurant is an everyday challenge. "At the end of the day, if the customer feels he can be repeat, the food can be repeat, but the quality of service cannot be repeated because it emanates from within the organization."

Those young franchisees share their tips on what it takes to be a good entrepreneur. "Practice patience," shares Ben. "Get involved. Entrepreneurship requires 100 percent involvement. And keep that passion burning," is Sheryl's advice.

(Contributing reporter: ref 7472120)

'If I had three hours to spare before my flight…'

By Sandra Garcia
Lifestyle Author

FREQUENT travelers are constantly on the go. They're either rushing to their next meeting or catching their next plane. There's never enough time. What happens if they suddenly have three hours between their last meeting and a flight?

"Where were they/destination might be—if I had three hours to spare (what a luxury!!!) before having to depart for the airport, an hour in a spa for a quiet, stress-relieving massage would be a dream! But the reality is—there is no such thing."—**Peggy Angeles, vice president, sales and marketing, Shangri-la Hotels & Resorts**

"I am probably too practical to all likelihood, I would be in my office to attend to last minute things until I would have to leave for the airport. Now if I were on my resort home from New York, I would likely catch the Holy Mass at St. Patrick's then stop for some Krispy Kreme before heading off to the airport."—**Celso Elizalde Lopez, president, Ayala Fashions Ltd. Clothesline, Bose Hugo Boss**

"If I were in Hong Kong, I would first check my bags in the ultra-efficient Airport Express at the Hong Kong side so that I can free myself of luggage and confirm my seat. Then I would spend the time walking around the new IFC building in Central Airport Express. There are numerous shops opening (Tom Boxing one of my favorite for men's clothes) and there are restaurants but still an open area facing the harbor (which is very unique in HK). Since the flight to Manila is usually in the evening, I'd use the time to eat a healthy dinner within that huge complex, have a couple of drinks, then (relaxed) take the 22-minute train ride to HK airport and get there 30 minutes before boarding time. If there is enough time, I'd browse at the lower level of the airport to a great way to end a fantastic trip to HK!"—**Chris "Bo" Ambacan, managing director, Rustic Living**

"If I were in Singapore or Hong Kong where airports have wonderful bookstores and shops and also a decent dine area, I would spend the extra hour in the airport and browse through the bookstores. Then shop. I don't like being stressed up for my flight and prefer to be in airports generally early. If I were in a destination that does not have these facilities, then I will have a 30-to-45-minute workout in the hotel gym before heading off to the airport!"—**Ma Soares, director of marketing, Mandarin Oriental**

"Being a type A personality I'm actually edgy! Three hours prior to reaching the airport. Checking the traffic, calculating travel time and all. But if time permits, I'd go to a bookshop, a cafe room, and go to a travel hunting. At the airport, if I'm lucky, I'd get a massage! That would be a treat. I remember sometime ago, while in between flight connections in Hong Kong, I saw a reflexology booth. I regretfully cancelled the time it would take the distance to complete a session, although it was enticing it close to my connecting flight. I went on with the service anyway."—**Lesley Khoo Chuen, ST representative, Bally**

"My best place to spend those precious three hours is in Singapore.

I just work my way from Orchard Road to Orchard and never approach and actually end up in Boat Quay where I can lose myself for one to two hours in their books. I find Tatra the best place to find out what's new and what's latest in fashion and accessories."—**Jocelyn Pelaez, business owner**

For feedback, please e-mail sdgarcia@yahoo.com

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Search on for local Lumen

By Desiree Cabuco
PDI Mindoro Lawan Bureau

BAKED CITY—Remember Lumen, the "Wais na Misis" (wise wife and mother) in the Surf detergent soap commercials?

If people from Northern and Central Luzon do not, then Unilever Philippines, manufacturer of the Surf detergent, want to remind them by launching a search for "Real-Living Wais na Misis."

As many as 45 mothers from Northern and Central Luzon joined the search and from each provincial capitals (Ilocos Sur, La Union, Baguio City, Pangasinan, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Aurora, Zambales, Olongapo City, Bataan, Pampanga, Bulacan, Metro Manila, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon, Marinduque, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Romblon, Palawan, Masbate, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Albay, Sorsogon, Catanduanes, Naga City, Legazpi City, Iriga City, Ligao City, Tabaco City, Puerto Princesa City, Roxas City, Kalibo, Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Iloilo City, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental, Cebu City, Bohol, Leyte, Southern Leyte, Biliran, Samar, Eastern Samar, Northern Samar, Dumaguete City, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga City, Misamis Occidental, Misamis Oriental, Cagayan de Oro City, Bukidnon, Iligan City, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Marawi City, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao City, Davao Oriental, Compostela Valley, North Cotabato, Sarangani, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, General Santos City, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Butuan City, Surigao City, Dipolog City, Dapitan City, Pagadian City, Zamboanga Sibugay, Ozamiz City, Tangub City, Misamis Occid

Mentor helps set this SME on path to success

By Emmanuel Gabriel
Contributor

AFTER close to 15 years of making cassava cakes, Lorell's Bakeshop just finds itself, and its expressed, blues.

Their biggest buyer, an established eatery delicacies outlet in Pampanga, just dropped them for another supplier.

That supplier absorbed the 60-100 boxes of cassava cakes per day, and over 3,000 boxes during Christmas and New Year's Eve, that Lorell's produced.

Business was so good that they were able to put up a P500,000 building on the leased property that Lorell's Bakeshop is operating on.

"At first they would only order a little from their new supplier," recalls Raymund Dizon. It was only a matter of time before they were cut off.

"Our business was then a losing proposition," Dizon says.

Lorell's Bakeshop barely made P2,000 a day in sales, but they still continued paying P11,000 in rent and the escalation clause on their lease was to take effect soon.

"We pushed our products ourselves. In some-

THE SUZUKIS

times we would even go up branch outlets under the trade name Lorell's, hoping to offset our loss sales," Raymund says. "We even had a point where we thought of selling the business.

Fortunately, Raymund stumbled upon the Philippine Business for Social Progress' (PBSP) Corporate Volunteers for Enterprise Development (CVED) program.

Adopted from the Canadian Executive Service Organization (CESO) and with funding from the Canadian International Development Agency, CVED aims to provide a link between fledgling micro, small and medium entrepreneurs and accomplished volunteer advisers or mentors who offer free business consulting.

What sets this program apart is the effective use of volunteerism among top executives of major corporations.

Under the CVED program, entrepreneurs like him would be working directly with committed volunteer expert advisers (known as volunteer advisers or Vas) chosen for their skills and expertise in business operations.

Raymund found a lifeline.

Losing no time, he applied for the CVED Advisory Services. As in an executive medical check-up where a patient undergoes a thorough examination, Raymund's whole application went through a careful assessment and diagnosis of his company's business needs.

"It takes around two weeks to three to have a proper diagnosis of the business. Then everything is documented," explains Mini Nevalga, CVED Program Manager.

What ails you

After numerous meetings with the Dizons, initial problems were gradually identified.

One of their problems was the short shelf life of Lorell's cassava cake. It lasted for only two to three days, like other native rice cakes.

Another important observation brought out by Nevalga was the issue of whether Lorell's should concentrate on supplying or go to the retail market itself.

If the Dizons got a production outfit in Manila, would the recipe and final product be consistent with what they had been dishing out the past 15 years? With limited resources, can they afford stand-alone stores?

Looking through PBSP-CVED's roster of 22 volunteer advisers from the academe, marketing, production management, organization and financial management fields, Nevalga found a match for the troubled bakeshop. Comparing his documented observations and concerns and application forms of Vas, Nevalga matched Lorell's with Cornele Cagahastian.

PINOY ENTREPRENEUR

Cagahastian, the VA matched to mentor and help Lorell's through its difficulties, is experienced in running distressed companies around.

His business acumen and know-how came from the University of San Francisco in California and the Ilang Chamber of Commerce & Industry, where she served as vice president.

In 100 days, she consulted the young entrepreneurs toward a roadmap that will guide them in generating new business, introducing operation cost and space planning.

Payoff

What convinced Cagahastian to take on the Lorell assignment was the product itself—Lorell's cassava cake.

Lorell's cassava cake comes from a special Dizon family recipe that utilizes a special type of cassava, otherwise known as the yellow cassava variety.

This, Raymund says, is grown in the Dizon family farm in Central Luzon. This yellow variety has double the fiber found in other root crops, like ordinary cassava and sweet potatoes, which are rich in potassium and other minerals as well.

Cagahastian advised the Dizons to tap markets where they can distribute fast and not rely on meager retail sales.

Sometimes, the Dizons are busy delivering to a number of outlets, including big hotels in Central Luzon. With the help of Cagahastian, exploratory talks with a giant bakeshop in Manila are on the way.

The Dizons are also looking to tap the industrial markets in Clark and Subic in Luzon, not to mention the other lucrative positioning market in airports and other transportation terminals.

To address the short shelf life of their cassava cakes, the use of vacuum-sealed packaging or refrigerators with time freezing was suggested. Employing these technologies will extend the three-day shelf life to two weeks. Raymund is currently looking for suppliers of these technologies.

Cagahastian also suggested a reorganization of the lines of power with the Ice cream. Having done such, the Dizons reduced their loan payments.

To solve the distribution problems, Raymund's VA suggested they look for distributors and give commissions on items sold.

Lastly, Raymund's VA helped set the direction of their business. They would go back to supplying ...their core competence, rather than develop their own brand and stand alone stores.

"My father and I were cracking our heads. So we invited someone else to have an objective view (Vas) were emotional about what happened," Raymund says.

After a month of going through the mentoring problem, Lorell's is doing better these days. Monthly sales have doubled and they may even claim break-even point soon.

"With CVED, they encourage you, give you hope and insights, so you see the opportunities and markets you can tap," Raymund says.

Speaking as a true beneficiary of the adage, "Helping people help themselves," Raymund gives his two thumbs-up to this mentoring scheme.

More than psychic income, volunteer advisers are the loop-ins to benefit of helping SMEs. They know it redounds to the common good. Moreover, CVED is proving to be a vehicle for self-actualization. They are committed so they can give back what they have been blessed with to the corporate world.

There are no exorbitant consulting fees at CVED. It is all in the spirit of volunteering one's skills to genuinely help entrepreneurs.

In Makati, marketing/business consultants come with a hefty tag price. They go anywhere from P40,000 to P60,000 in professional fee alone. Add in transportation and accommodation expenses for bringing them in, it can run up to P 80,000 when you engage professional consulting outfits.

For people like the Dizons, such amount would just have made them fold up. There has to be some paying forward and small entrepreneurs hope to find more people who don't mind sharing time and expertise to help distressed companies get back into shape.

(For inquiries, please contact Mini Nevalga of CVED-Philippine Business for Social Progress at 3207741 to 49 or mnl@pbsp.org.ph)

THE CASSAVA business nearly closed shop until a lending hand came along.

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

Editor: Chino Bansil-Formoso

THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY HOME & FASHION • SUNDAY SURPRISES • MONDAY ARTS • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY 3BU

Zoom, zoom, Quezon

Text by Linda B. Bolilis
Photos by Joe Bonifer

With the opening of SM in Lucena, the province is becoming more than just a bus or ship stop for many Filipino travelers

DESPITE the storied past of Quezon province, most Filipinos know very little about it.

They know tiny and yummy—beautiful and generally still pristine beaches, the revered Pahiyas in thanksgiving to San Isidro Labrador, pecan coin of harmonic the impressive national forest park, the native delicacies like Lucban longanisa and pancit, chami, kuchi, bruas, and many more.

But, they may not know that Manuel Luis Quezon—the first President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines whose birth anniversary on Aug. 19 is observed as a holiday in certain parts of the country and as "Lingga ng Piko" celebration—launched his career in politics in this province which was then known as Tayabas. At age 28, Quezon became the first elected governor of Tayabas, a position that would lead him to the national political stage.

His political career would culminate in his heading the Commonwealth that was set up before World War II, preparatory to the eventual recognition of the country's independence and complete transfer of leadership from the hated hands of Filipinos.

The late historian Teodoro A. Agoncillo described Quezon "as the first president of his country experimenting with a transition period of self-rule prior to complete independence in 1946."

Quezon, of course, is also known as the "Father of the national language." But, of

(CONTINUED ON C2)

MANUEL Luis Quezon, first President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines and father of the national language, launched his political career in the province but now bears his name.

ISLANDAIRE Nature Park and Restaurant in Pagbilao has a petting zoo with turtles, deer, monkeys, birds.

AT SM—like other branches, SM Lucena is a mix of foreign brands, Manila-based establishments and local enterprises.

DRAGONCAN is a busy fish port in sleepy Pagbilao.

IN THIS ISSUE

FISH tales

BROAS, bulig—it's chow time!

STORIED houses

GOING against Godzilla

The Dalahican Fish Port is the scene of frenzied bidding for the riches of the sea

GO FISH! Local fishing boats, and those that come from as far as Palawan, Bicol and Mindoro, bring in their catch at Dalahican Fish Port in Pagbilao town.

Loudest whisper in Quezon fish port

Text by Cheche V. Maral
Photos by Joan Bondoc

WHILE most of Quezon is in deep slumber, life is always in the Dalahican Fish Port in the town of Pagbilao. It's a drizzly daybreak, but it's business as usual for the fishermen, fish vendors and buyers in this otherwise sleepy town.

At 4 a.m., fish trading is at its peak. The voice of a preacher blaring on the PA is drowned by all the noise and animation.

Fishers spill out their catch on the ground and begin sorting. On one side of the covered structure are the fish brokers' counters, where they've busy filing figures in their ledgers. On the other end are the fishmongers, their wares until last out on plastic crates and large metal tubs. Outside, there are vans all too ready to fill up their with coconut-crushed ice.

The smack of fish and the clean job you out of sleepiness better than a quick, cold shower. Horse-trading business is dissipated as our photographer starts clicking away. Some go bashful, "Sir, pa! Ito pa! Huwag naman!"

Several men and women are in a bustle over barrels of fish, crabs, prawns, whatever, unmindful of our curious presence. That's how fish is sold here, we learn—Amsterdam style. A fisherman hands in his catch, wholesale buyers and resellers literally whisper their bid through a megaphoning, and when a price is reached, the megaphoning announces the highest bid. Business is cleared via the fish broker. The winning bidder pays through the fish broker, who in turn pays the fisherman minus a 5-percent commission. This system also allows the fisherman to borrow money in advance from the broker. Fishermen have a split broker to megaseller. The broker employs the megaphoning.

What's remarkable about Dalahican is how its economy find order in the chaos. Bidding price itself is based on centralize, open use buyer. If the final bid is a tie, the winner is decided through a coin toss. If the final bid happens to be more than the actual cost of the fish, it's considered a draw. Bidding goes all over.

Sure, disputes take place, says Marisol Villanueva, who comes here to buy fresh catch for her smoked-fish business. "Nagbabahaginan," she says dryly. "Mga mahaderang tumatawag 'nang kid pero lamig kindi na nanuba."

Marisol Dingin has been a megaseller since 1980, working for the broker SCH Consignation. The woman is used to the irregular work hours, she says, grinning wryly. "Nasanay na."

On a regular day, says Dingin, a fishing boat can land in many P50,000 worth of fish, depending on the size of the boat. A good day can bring in P500,000.

It must be understood, Dingin adds, that some boats bring in the catch of more than one fisherman. Otherwise, the boat is owned by the fishermen from its owner, "Minsan sa kanila ang mga gamit pero yung mga tauhan iba."

Several names are marked on Dingin's white board. Those are blacklisted, she explains, for failing to pay repeatedly.

Quezon's rich marine life is a major economic asset. In Dalahican, a good assortment of quality fish is sold at a fraction of their prices in Metro Manila. There are lapu-lapu, samaral, mayo-mayo, alumahan, tanigue, tulingan, and a bodyguardge of strange looking shellfish and marine products. Chances are, the fish you buy in the market's wet markets and supermarkets have come from Dalahican. Fishing boats also come from as far as Palawan, and neighboring Bicol and Mindoro.

A megaseller, who requested anonymity, says they're up from 3 a.m. 12 m. (boats don't dock at the same time). She complains many of them are grossly underpaid. "Eh, P100 isang araw. Minsan na mga may sk. Yung iba, P2,000-P3,000 isang buwan," she continues. "May umuhan kami dito. Mean Department of Labor na raw yung kami, eh. Mula pa-ring tanggapan?"

Suddenly she spies her employer walking toward our direction. The pushcart, mumbling conspiratorially, "Mamaya na lang tayo mag-usap, pupuntahan kita dun," motioning to the other side of the building.

Our group reconvenes, and with our plastic bags filled with lapu-lapu, tanbo, mayo-mayo and shrimps, we board the car and leave Dalahican. We retrace our the mgahaloang again.

E-mail the author at cmaral@inquirer.com.ph

Lifestyle tour to Quezon was sponsored by 1M City Liaoma.

FISH BE WITH YOU. The preacher is an unobtrusive presence in the busy port.

GOING, GOING, GONE. Winning bidder hauls the crabs away.

SPEAK SOFTLY... Fish is traded Batangan-style.

FISHY BUSINESS. Fishmongers sort the day's catch.

PRUNES of fresh noodles for the well-known Quezon store

Zoom, zoom, Quezon

From page C1

though the late President (sic) believed that "a national language would foster national unity and national identity," he did not choose his province's native tongue as the basis of the national language. The institute of National Language recommended the adoption of Tagalog instead.

The folks in Quezon still consider the late President Quezon as a native son of the province even though Baler, his birthplace, is now part of the province of Aurora.

But for a great deal of people, the province named in honor of the late President Quezon, is simply a means to get to where they are going to the south.

Bus stop

To people going to Metro Manila from the Bicol Region, Marinduque and Batangas, and those going in the opposite direction, Quezon has been just another province on the bus route or a place to get onto a ship.

But things appear to be changing, particularly for families, traders, entrepreneurs and others who prefer to do their shopping in Metro Manila because goods are cheaper, have more diversity and are available in large volumes.

The opening last October of SM City Lucena, the chain's 26th supermall, seemed to make people south of Quezon need to stay longer in the province, even dropping altogether any plans to proceed to the metropolitan area. The mall is, so far, the easternmost branch in Luzon of SM.

For mainland Batangas, for instance, a mall with almost everything you need and only about five or six hours away from home makes the additional three or four hour trip to Metro Manila unnecessary. It is even possible for some, like those from Calamianes first, to make the shopping expedition a day trip.

For island dwellers who prefer using Lucena's shopping port instead of traveling all the way from Manila's North Harbor to their provinces, it makes sense to defer your shopping until you get to Lucena instead of lugging stuff all the way from the metropolis.

Besides, prices will be the same whether you buy items at the Megamall or SM Lucena or any other branch in the country.

Per Lucena, the capital and center of trade, commerce, government, education and financial services of the historic province of Quezon, having the 77,3019-sq. m mall at the intersection of the Pagbilao National and Tabalistan Roads, may yet make it also the center of trade and commerce for the southernmost part of Luzon and nearby island provinces.

YEH! don't have to get out of SM Lucena to buy a popular Quezon pasalubong—*turrones* La Cruz.

QUEZONS native products get a special corner at the supermarket where they can't be missed.

THROUGH its anniversary sales events closely to the SM blueprint, the mall's façade is emblazoned instead of the usual gray

SWEET spoons at Silangang Nipon Park and Restaurant. At right are the resto's sauce-covered bars, both available at Pugidan Bay.

Chow time in Quezon

The province is a foodie's heaven, where certain names have broken into the franchise market

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Joan Bondoc

KAMAYAN sa Palaisdaan's nipa huts a floating on a "lake." At left, the restaurant's renowned fresh prawns

WHEN in Quezon, take time to discover these homegrown restaurant, both for the food and the energy. Japanese lifestyle standard can a few places that proved dining in the capital Luzon as and the adjacent towns is more than a tempting plateful of pure Luzon.

L.C. Big Mak Burger

(SM City Lucena/Just Love)

Several years ago, this local burger chain, which began operations in 1984, was sued by McDonald's over the use of the name. Big Mak owner Francis Uy maintained the name was derived from his parents' (Francis and Vilma) Bi Lee. The Court of Appeals later overturned the ruling, and the case is now in the Supreme Court.

In November, Big Mak will celebrate its 20th year with 400-plus kiosks and restaurants nationwide. It recently opened its first mall outlet in SM City Lucena.

Dy and his wife Edna like to say they started their burger business by using the cover of a margarine tub as mold for their homemade burger. Today Big Mak has a high-tech processing plant that makes 80,000 patties daily. 1.5 tons of onion and four tons of lettuce.

Ethnic-style Bicol Express and Kalbo home-style burger are to promote the price, opposite to all social classes. The regular burger, for instance, costs about P75 less than those of the more popular brands. Big Mak's 10" footlong sandwich, which can feed two people, is P95. Big Mak uses only imported beef from Australia, India and Canada. Only Asian beef burgers are sold in their Mindanao branches in SM. It also sells pizza, rice meals and Mak Munch, its version of the fried chicken.

Kalbo Klatch

2/L GMT City Lucena

The same family behind the popular Jessie's Resto opened its first mall branch in SM Lucena. Kalbo Klatch is a coffee shop that sells baked goods and other pasalubong fare under the Jessie's brand.

In spite of Kalbo Klatch's provincial locale, owner Alfredo Valdez vouchers her trade with the same professionalism as any Uy business. If guests are satisfied with any of her products, she would gladly replace it, no questions asked.

Cheesy Blossom

2/L SM City Lucena

The Chinese resto was displaced from its Kalbo branch after the Fiesta'ex complex. The owners, partners of Quezon, have a big budget mall-and-restaurant for the heart of Lucena. They opened the two-level eatery in SM for mall-goers to sample their fare at affordable prices.

The menu is a mix of Filipino, Chinese, Japanese, Thai and Iberian. Bestsellers are the Chinese Chameleon, Hawaii Cocoa, Beef and Broccoli Mofus and UB soup (fish lips with assorted meat).

Buddy's

2/L SM City Lucena

If you just can't have enough of Quezon chow, there's no better place to go to Lucena than Zaldy and Flora Vibar's Buddy's resto in SM City. It offers specific Lutheo with a generous heaping of lechon kawali, and other fare adlibs like soup pinta, Lutheo longanisa, chami and Asado. They take pride in the pork they use, which comes from their own piggery.

Zaldy decided to introduce burgers because he felt parts of Lutheo may be too far out of the mall and "Friday" for Quezon diners, but in his SM branch, parts of Lutheo still top his best sellers.

Buddy's also has other branches in Lucena, another in Tayabas, and its main branch in Lutheo, for those who don't go all the way to Quezon. Buddy's has two branches in Makati—one along Ayala Avenue and the other in Glorietta.

Kamayan sa Palaisdaan

Barangay Dapdap, Tayabas, Quezon, tel. (042) 7510863, (042) 7510874, email kamayan@pldt.net

After vacationing in Anaheim, California, Dr. Le Santos came home to start his own Filipino-dining business. Soon, his buyers would ask him to cook the fish he was selling them. That gave him the idea for the near 1-hectare Kamayan sa Palaisdaan.

The resto is actually a series of Filipino nipa huts that circle a 2-ha lot, with a seating capacity of 1,000. The huts are "afloat" in a manmade lake with surrounding gardens, where you can even fish for your own lunch.

The resto is managed by Del Rosario is actually Kamayan's second outlet. The first branch is already recently and is managed by a sibling, another sibling also has one in Los Baños.

Del Rosario serves typical Quezon dishes like pako salad and kinunot. Grilled tilapia is a staple; he serves 300 kg of the fish daily, harvested from his own fishpond.

Silangang Nipon Park and Restaurant

Barangay Barangay, Pagbilao, Quezon, tel. (042) 7731018/23, (0919) 6320402

Mary Ann Perdido says her brother bought the grassy land on a cliff overlooking Pagbilao Bay a few years ago. At first he had a single rest hall where he and his friends would go drinking. After a year and good word-of-mouth advertising, Silangan is now in full swing with 25 huts, despite its location—3.5 km from Lucena City and another 6 km from the highway. The area covered are the three huts set up to relax on the bay.

Diners are mostly seafood cooked Filipino and Chinese style. Its extensive menu includes scallops, pigeons, oysters, lapu-lapu cooked in variety of ways—fried, baked, grilled. It is open 10 a.m. 10 p.m.

The Perdidos have also made it their cause to save the turtles in the area. Buying turtles caught by local fishermen and setting them free in enclosed area in the bay. They also have other wild and tame animals in their enterprise.

Uya Bigyan's Cafe Casa Rap

Barangay Lucban, Real, Quezon, tel(042) 7630144, (0919)

For a truly hearty native fare, a must-stop is Tayabas is public Uya Bigyan's café, located in the compound where he has his Mexican-inspired home and studio/shop. The thatched-roofed nipa offer a relaxing break from a long drive, with reclining chairs and big Bally pillows for napping.

The café is open for lunch daily at P350 per head. Reservations must be made with a minimum of five persons.

Moreover on the menu (if you're lucky, Uya goes will whip them up himself) are the Lucban sweet (banana-bean salad) and adlai salad, been vitally seasoned with the edible purple flower, sampaloc.

If it's your second visit inform the café in advance so they can whip up a different menu.

Either may include fresh mussels cooked with mustard leaves, squid strip, grilled tilapia. Quezonians take pride in their Tayabo, raised in clean and unpolluted water from the upstops of Mt. Banahaw).

Lutea's

Lucena City

We were either too hungry for the late lunch or the food at Lutea's was really good. The resto was gallery serves the yummiest crispy-tail pig food (P85), sizzling sisig (P80) and Thai pansit (like fresh lumpia but with spicy peanut sauce) we have had of late—and in a very unpretentious setting. Of course, they have awards displayed all over the walls.

Lifestyle Goes to Quezon was sponsored by SM City Lucena.

L.C. Big Mak's Pinoy-style Tera Deuce Burger with cheese and mayo. Below is the fast-food's first mall outlet, in SM Lucena.

KOFFEE Klatch cafe and bake shop at SM Lucena

BUDDY'S best-selling burgers, featuring Lutheo longanisa and pancit Lu-Chan

MARKET
A CELEBRITY - CHARITY BAZAAR

Most grandiose Canada Day celebration

CUTTING the Canadian loaf: Cebu City Vice Mayor Michael Rama, Canadian Ambassador Peter Sutherland, Mountview Hotel executive chef/Director Dietrich and Canada Monument executive Cebu, Robert Lee

CEBU
CEBU

Janice Piccarell

THE AMBASSADOR of Canada, **Peter Sutherland**, and his wife Jocelyne were in Cebu for a series of events to celebrate Canada Day. Highlight of the observance was a grand reception at the Atlantic Hall of The Mountview Hotel.

Each of the guests were formally presented by Canada's honorary consul, Jo Cebu, Robert Lee, and his wife Anna. They were congratulated for making this the most grandiose celebration of Canada Day in Cebu to be.

A good representation came from the Canadian Embassy in Manila: **David de Silva**, **Richard Raba**, **Chris Bastick**, **Rizele de la Cruz** and **Irma Angeles**. Also here were Lynette Trenton from Canada Fund and **Renée Mahe** of Pond 2 Project.

Two mayors: **Michael Rama** of Cebu City was there and relished, with Ambassador Sutherland and Consul Lee, a slice of Canadian roast beef was ceremonially served by the Waterfront's executive chef, **Dietmar Dietrich**. The occasion also launched the Canadian Food Festival at the hotel's Cafe Dito.

There was a good sampling of Canadian food on the buffet. Everyone made a beeline for the Beaty Bay oysters served on a bed of crushed ice. We just had to smile our **Ma. Christina Uy** of Bolo to Perth and get her advice to Mandaue City, as they share their three in the crest.

Nina Ledon, Cebu's secretary of tourism, was present, very much into her role as Philippine-Canada Business Council president. Earlier in the day Ambassador Sutherland attended a luncheon of the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, where she gave a briefing on three matters of paramount importance to Cebu businessmen.

First was on business opportunities in Canada; second, the participation of Cebu in a business mission to Canada next August; and third, Cebu's presence in the Canadian National Exposition in Toronto in 2005.

The day after the reception Ambassador Sutherland visited the northern municipality of Sogod to present a check to **Angelina Quiremba**, country manager of the World Canes project. Funded by Canada, the project gives computer training to children and elderly people of Sogod.

Ambassador and Ms. Sutherland also attended the 25th anniversary of the Children's Center of Cebu, an orphanage partly funded by Canada.

French spring

Cebu had a whiff of French Spring as the embassy of France sent the brilliant guitar Duo Aeros for a performance, and also held a festival of French films. Both events were standing room-only affairs. The Duo Aeros performed at the Cebu Country Club Cebu, while the films were shown at Cinema 5 of the Ayala Center.

Ambassador of France **Benoît Veyret** came for the occasion and addressed the elegant crowd that attended the guitar recital. "You don't have to leave your homeland island to enjoy the delightful music, we bring it to you," he said.

The French embassy found a ready partner in the Arts Council for presentation like this one. The very energetic president **Peter Garcia** is a human dynamo. This event was observed by vice president **Maxwell Tupaz**, one of Cebu's most consistent art patrons.

The Duo Aeros is composed of poet's **Gisella Chirche** and **Francisco Bermúdez**, who is part Spanish. "We are very happy to be here tonight," they told the audience before they started playing their first piece, "Romance" by Fernando Sor, the Beethoven of guitar.

The pieces was followed by two composition from by **María Guadalupe Ballesteros**... "Prelude no.1 Fugue in E Major," and "Four Elegies for Two Guitars"—dedicated to the memory of **Ida Presti**. Closing the first part of the program were two "Grand Pieces" by **Joaquin Turina**. From the titles, one could tell the composer drew inspiration from Seville—"Zambra," "Danza de la Seduccion," "Danza Ritual," "Generalife" and "Sacromonte."

The second part, starting with Vivaldi's "Concerto in D Major," drew crescendos of delight. Then came "Toccata for Two Guitars" by **Pierre Petit**, whose charm in 2000 is still accented by Gisella and Francisco. There was a deep hush of the audience, and he often rehearsed this piece, which was inspired by Gershwin, with them.

The finale had three famous compositions by **Manuel de Falla**—"Danza del Molinero," "Homenaje del Pescador" and "Spanish Dance No. 1" from "La Vida Breve." Amid sustained applause flowers were presented to the artists. Arts Council founder **de Sala Villarino** put a lei on Francisco while Ambassador Veyret gave Gisella a bouquet.

The audience gave the performers a standing ovation and did not stop until the duo gave an encore...Tarrega's "Recuerdos de la Alhambra." It hushed and stunned everyone for, as many said, it was the best part of the entire performance.

FRENCH Ambassador Benoit Veyret (center) with Duo Aeros's Francisco Bermúdez and Gisella Chirche

THE SECRET as snipper-brown is in drying these for about two hours before baking them again.

Lovin' Lucban's lady fingers

Text by Jillian W. Lopez
Photos by Linda Bohle

DEALO'S treats also include ube, gabon, cinnamon, pinoy, sugar.

The city's only remaining Neoclassical 'bahay na hato' has been home to the province's leading makers of export-quality 'broas' for decades

LADY FINGERS follow the same simple recipe for sponge cake, says Deale operations manager Milly Valdez.

INSIDE the century-old stone walls of Lucban's La Casa de Dolin Ann, gloved workers in crisp white lab gowns scurry about the trendy interiors on the dead of night. Finally any tobacco can be found, just the soft whirring of mixers being used to create one of the city's renowned delicacies—sweet, crunchy buso, or round lady finger biscuits.

Owned by the Deale family, the city's only remaining Neoclassical bahay na hato has been home to the province's leading makers of export-quality broas for decades.

"We were the first in Quezon," says Milada Deale-Valdez, citing their 46 years of making delicious biscuits.

Deale began in 1958 with her father Marcelo Deale, who started a small business manufacturing traditional Pinoy biscuits in Lucban, his hometown. Nearly 20 years later, Deale fractured his hip, was confined, and needed more attention to his family's expansion.

In the fifties, which Milada began in 1970 as a canteen serving Deale employees, is now the company's mainstream to orders and purchases.

The following around the oceans soon grew to seven branches in the capital city of Lucena, one each in Baguio and Dumaguete, plus the main store at Lucban. Eddie Deale-Valdez, which house all Deale goodies, have done so since he froze who go for suitcase pasalubong orders.

Despite the presidency category, the Deale-Valdez is everywhere. Name it, and they're most likely got it: cuyo (rice biscuits), galleta (egg crackers), cornchoy (cinnamon cookies), nagaslan (soft biscuits), pandesal (sweet crackers), pinnacuda (butter roast bread), cornchoy (almond biscuits), Hokkaido (Milky biscuits), broas (round biscuits). The list will surely go on as the homegrown company continues to develop new products.

These goods have penetrated Abu Dhabi, Oil, Canada and London. But their broas, famous abroad as lady fingers, remains the bestseller in and out of the country.

Difference in texture

Valdez points out that the difference between these Lucban broas and Deale's lies in the texture. The Lucban broas are crispier and less brittle, as it's more likely you'll get when Deale's which is good by a week at most.

"The DOST helped us review parts of our process in making Deale," says Milada, a chemical engineer who is in charge of the company's operations.

Aboard in micro-nanovalde contractors, the Deale's Deale line have expanded to both Bohol and Cebu and is doing well. Its standards of how is all it takes for the Deale to submit and melt sweetly in the mouth.

Becoming is really the way to go, says Valdez. "She tulaga ang bold."

Since the younger Deales also intended to continue and reach out to a different market, they opened a branch in SM Lucena three months ago. "Solid matabuh dun kasi," she explains.

At 52, the married businesswoman is undeterred in every. Its don't be surprised if, one of these days, Lucban broas will be up there with Dorothy Joan's and English muffins as some of the world's most popular tea time treats.

Ms Deale-Marcelo-Valdez is located at 67 Old Plaza St., BF Homes, Parañaque. Jail Prison City Gail 8031565 for BOTSAS or e-mail dealedolin@yahoo.com.ph. The manufacturing plant is at 1110 Quezon Avenue Lucban, Quezon. Call 8534211 8654888 or fax 8534211 8657505. Visit www.deale.net or www.sites.com.ph/deale.

Lifestyle Goes to Quezon was sponsored by SM City Lucena.

DEALO'S Milada Valdez shows how to make a really long Lucban lasagna.

The long and short of it

"Daddy" short-parted "ma-ing-nang-ito," says Deale's Milada Valdez while knocking the lasagna's father's "ma-ing. The greatest love long the buried Pinoy message used to be on-and-three-inches, and how it was hung in windows to be dried and shadowed during the Filipino feast.

Today's longsinning Lucban may be short and sweet, but it's no less delicious. The secret lies in the juice of oregano leaves, says Milada. The juice of oregano leaves? Yes, she replies, add together the oregano has plenty of sparrow's coffee.

The ingredients are easy to acquire: pork, pepper, chopped garlic, salt, if-inasal na oregano and pigs fat. She adds the oregano to the pork and mixes it by hand. "Mas maraming garlic, mas mamit ng," she says.

After blending the ingredients well, the sauce is mould formed into shape and mass the meat into a long strip of dried pork intestine, and wants till the meat fills around intestines. She ties the ends with floss but making sure the one used is making holes. "We prefer to use this three-thread. It's organic and also edible," Milada says.

She proceeds to explain how the oregano might be consumed.

"It's a small amount of water, cook the lasagna in low heat. You don't have to use oil since the pork fat will produce its own," she says. Then, pinch the lasagna using a fork to release its natural oils.

The result? Juicy and scrumptious pockets of meat covered in crispy pork skin. Just delicious (it's only rich, fatty) oil. Unassuming. Well-worth-voyaging and eaten-after-voyage.

Is there a special vinegar concoction that goes with it? Milada says she doesn't use any, because the taste is ruined. "We can't help but ignore."

Allison W. Lopez

ELDERLY MARRIED Chelsing Rhoeds and Cora Rhoeda Reyes (with great grandchild) [illegible]

Sticking together for family and delicacy

LIKE the "sticky" casserole they lovingly make, the Rhoeda family sticks together and serves little fair vignettes of business get to the test.

At "Kubo Budin" on E. Jacinto Street, Barangay San Diego, Dumbon, Quezon, Cora Rhoeda Reyes and Chelsing Rhoeda have competing with selling their signature budin. But the 64-year-old Cora, the eldest of the Rhoeda siblings, can also be seen lining around at her friend's wife, middling her 6-month-old son to behold (great grandchild).

"Me ang nagtuo dun Apolonio at Chelsing lang paano ay-nasa tgabuhin," says Cora, who learned how to make the sweet cassava cake from mostly everybody. Budin makers at the market in 1972, she started making and selling her own concoction under the brand name "Cora." Two years later, her brother and his wife followed suit and put up Chelsing's.

Here, packed in a small store, are Adora's, Soraia's, Inday's, Rhea's and Jessy's stores—each one selling its own secret recipe of budin and delicacies from mango, pineapple, cassava and young coconut. There small businesses thrive well, as locals and foreign tourists flock to the place to have a taste of these homemade goodies. And whenever the mood sends "Kubo Budin" to your friendly Dumbon driver and your wish will be granted.

"Napansin na namin ang mga ganyan nitong nakaraan dahil dito," says Chelsing proudly as her three kids are out here in college or working in Manila. The family used to live upstairs but, thanks to the business, they were able to move their home to a sturdy subdivision.

The Reyezes, meanwhile, live as an extension of the same place. Cora has actually retired, but her 44-year-old son Rosauro, who has been managing the business since 2002, is continuing her mom's legacy by continuing the local cuisine.

Unlike his Tita Chelsing, who makes only budin, Rosauro also makes whipped and sweetened cassava, which he proudly says helps him. "Mas maraming gumusto ang niluluto kaysa budin at kalimitan ng dayuhang na tao," he says, explaining why his aunt didn't bother to make such. Having said this, he noted in making whipped, which is mashed as a fine texture using old-fashioned grinders.

In making budin, Chelsing does the manner, while her husband hunts the budin as the sugar, as the traditional oven. It takes around two hours to cook the budin. A closing fire is used at first, then low heat.

Same formula

Since the recipe was handed down by his mom, it's only natural that Rosauro uses the same formula as his aunt's. The family keeps to what differentiates from the other stores. "Dito may alunggay-along pulot ingredient na 16 days si Tita, at sugpo-mark naman," he says, laughing.

Tita Cora, Rhoeda, it's a solid partnership between the relatives. Rosauro recalls the time when a typhoon destroyed the crops and lessened the yield of cassava. "Naglo-nagkaroon kami ng naglalakuparan at salamat sa ng supply ng kamote-nghabon," he says.

Among Cora's four kids, all of whom have finished college, it was only Rosauro who opted to stay in Quezon to carry the family torch, so to speak. Things have never been better for the family since.

Between the two delicacies, Rosauro's budin is the more edible than whipped. This is because whipped has to be consumed within the day it is cooked or it spoils. Budin a good for two days when sealed in plastic, but 4 to 5 days when and there days when in cool 1929. Whipped costs a peso higher (P25) due to its number-solar preparation and shorter shelf life.

Others, though, prefer the cheaper-priced whipped to the much sweeter budin. The relish manner has margarine, cream and a sprinkling of sugar as budin contains milk and eggs aside from cheese and margarine.

Rosauro believes the business will continue to do well years from now, and chooses, of bringing their goodies to Manila. "Marami na rin ang nag-aalok sa Manila," he says.

His family has been started to hone the ropes of the business. And with an age as tested already reading in line, there's no doubt that Cora's budin making legacy will live on.

Allison W. Lopez

COOKIES budin or cassava cake ready for packaging.

THE GUILTY! sweet...cheese-topped whipped, another cassava delicacy.